

**JOINT/CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ADVISORY
COUNCIL/BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 6-7, 2008

**CARROLL COLLEGE
SIENA ROOM
1601 NORTH BENTON AVE
HELENA, MT 59601**

March 6, 2008 - Thursday
8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2008. Ms. Patty Myers led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted. Ms. Patty Myers noted the following changes on the agenda: There will be no Commissioner of Higher Education's Report due to Commissioner Sheila Stearns attending the Board of Regents meeting in Dillon, MT; MACIE Report will be presented when the Board of Public Education reconvenes at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday; MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension and MSDB Committee Meeting Report will be presented at the end of the day on Thursday; Governor's Office Report will be presented first thing on Friday; and Ms. Holly Raser, Democratic Candidate for the Superintendent of Public Instruction will present after Dr. Claudette Morton from 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chairperson Ms. Patty Myers, Vice Chairperson Ms. Angela McLean, Ms. Sharon Carroll, Dr. Kirk Miller, Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Bernie Olson, and Ms. Katie Wood. Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council members present include: Chairperson Dr. Douglas Reisig, Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Ms. Tonia Bloom, Ms. Kim Warrick, and Ms. Judie Woodhouse. Staff present at the meeting included: Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education; Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council; Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council; and Ms. Carol Will, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Ex-officio member State Superintendent Linda McCulloch was in attendance. Ms. Jan Lombardi represented ex-officio member Governor Brian Schweitzer. Council of Deans present included: Dr. Larry Baker, MSU Bozeman; Ms. Cindy O'Dell, Salish Kootenai College; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, MSU Billings; Dr. Lynette Zuroff, Carroll College; Dr. Barbara Vail, Rocky Mountain College; and Dr. Bobbie Evans, University of Montana. Visitors in attendance at the meeting included Mr. Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, Accreditation Division Administrator, OPI; Mr. Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT; Ms. Anna Green, Governor's Office; Ms. Elizabeth Keller; OPI; Dr. Jayne Downey, MSU Bozeman; Dr. Jo Swain, Rocky Mountain College; Ms. Patricia Chlouber, Regional Representative, U.S. Department of Education; Ms. Colet Bartow, Library Media Specialist, OPI; Mr. Voyd St. Pierre, Superintendent, Rocky Boy Public Schools; Ms. Beck McLaughlin, Montana Arts Council; Mr. Darrell Rud, School Administrators of Montana, Ms. Cathy Kendall, Health Enhancement Division Administrator, OPI; Mr. Bob Vogel, Montana School Board's Association; Ms. Madalyn

Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI, Ms. Gloria Lambertz, Carroll College; Dr. Claudette Morton, Democratic Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate; Ms. Holly Raser, Democratic Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate; Dr. Stevie Schmitz, Rocky Mountain College; Mr. Al McMilin, OPI, Ms. Karen Crogan, OPI; Ms. Judy Snow, Assessment, OPI; Ms. Maxine Mougeot, State Director/Fiscal Officer, OPI; Mr. Steve Gettel, Superintendent, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Mr. Bill Sykes, MSDB; and Mr. Geoffrey Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to approve the agenda as revised. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop was absent for the vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda if Requested

No items were pulled.

MOTION: Ms. Sharon Carroll moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop was absent for the vote.

Items are presented in the order in which they appeared.

BPE/CSPAC JOINT MEETING

Ms. Myers turned the floor over to Dr. Reisig. He took the time to thank the Board, Staff, OPI, MEA-MFT, and his CSPAC colleagues.

ITEM 1 CSPAC ANNUAL REPORT - Dr. Douglas Reisig

Dr. Reisig gave a brief overview of various topics the Council has discussed over the past year. He also presented the Board of Public Education with the 2007 Annual Report of the Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council. This report included six fundamental ideals needed to maintain high performing schools in Montana. These ideals are: 1) insist on effective district, school, and classroom leadership/governance 2) hold high expectations for administrators and teachers; 3) Montana administrators and teachers should target low-performing students...starting with reading and mathematics 4) Montana administrators, teachers, and schools should align, manage, and monitor curriculum 5) Montana administrators, teachers, and schools should create a culture of data and assessment literacy 6) Montana administrators, teachers, and schools should build and sustain institutional capacity. Dr. Reisig ended the presentation by showing the Reflections PowerPoint shown at the previous day's CSPAC meeting addressing the humanitarian aspect of teacher mentoring. Much like at the CSPAC meeting, the presentation was well received by the Board.

ITEM 2 MARCH 5, 2008 MEETING SUMMARY - Dr. Douglas Reisig

Dr. Reisig gave an overview of the previous day's meeting throughout the remaining items on the day's joint agenda.

ITEM 3 CSPAC ACTIVITIES - Dr. Douglas Reisig

Dr. Reisig stated the Council has spent some time now discussing the possibility of implementing teacher mentoring programs into schools across the state. Ms. McLean asked about any research being done

with four day schools. Dr. Reisig said CSPAC could look at the research and report back to the Board. Mr. Meloy said using research money to look at other states might not be as good of a use as facilitating it for an eventual implementation of Class 8 language. Along with Mr. Donovan, Mr. Meloy conducted a survey through National Association of State Boards of Educators to see what other states are doing in this area. Mr. Meloy feels other states will look at the work of the Board to see what is being done to credential, qualify and certify college faculty teaching in the K-12 environment since there are not many models out there at this time. Until it is implemented, the Board and Council can determine how to utilize the research fund.

ITEM 4 PROGRESS ON CSPAC GOALS - Dr. Douglas Reisig

Some of the long term goals for the Council are to review Chapter 57/58, distance learning/dual credit, mentoring research, school safety issues concerning threshold behaviors, and the MSDB interpreter qualifications.

ITEM 5 DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dr. Reisig informed the Board of the Council's plans to research the possibility of creating an Area of Special Permissive Competency for Mentoring; dual credit; and Class 8 licensure.

JOINT CSPAC/BPE/MONTANA COUNCIL OF DEANS OF EDUCATION MEETING

**Carroll College Siena/Ross Room
1601 N. Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59625**

March 6, 2008 - Thursday

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

ITEM 1 THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A STATE-WIDE DATA SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS TO INFORM POLICY DECISIONS

Dr. Larry Baker spoke before the Board and Council about the need to develop a long range plan to address current and future needs, and the supply of licensed professional to teach in our public schools. The data system is hoped to aid in tracking and predicting future needs by content and endorsement areas, this would enable the state to address teacher shortages. In phase one, the Montana Council of Deans of Education (MCDE) will create and maintain a longitudinal database for the specific purpose of tracking individual college students who are preparing to become teachers in all the institutions across the state. Ms. Cindy O'Dell mentioned this could help increase the number of Native Americans in teacher education programs. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh stated they need to look at students post-graduation to see where they go. To do this higher education and K-12 need to work together. Dr. Baker said the plan would be projected for the next five years during which time the University System as a whole should work alongside OPI. State Superintendent McCullough stated that OPI went before the Legislature to request money for a teacher staffing component and to help them track progress through the Achievement in Montana program. Dr. Baker stated even if there are no funds provided, MCDE still needs to work towards this goal. He was happy to hear both OPI and MEA-MFT are willing to help. This project should begin by the latter part of June 2008. Dr. Kirk Miller noted the Board had an individual speak who conducted research on college student and teacher information systems in 2005.

ITEM 2 REVIEW OF TEACHER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

MCDE began talking about the internship programs following the Education Forum. The OPI Internship Program allows for an addition of teaching endorsements to a Montana educator license. Currently, there are 192 participants from various institutions of higher education across the state seeking endorsements in a wide range of areas. MDCE hopes to alter several aspects of the program:

- Strengthen criteria for entrance/exit from the internship program and assure consistency across institutions
- Increase consistency in program oversight across institutions—mentoring, supervising, and student teaching

- Charge the MCDE with discussion regarding duplication of internship program content areas—different institutions assume responsibility for different internship content areas
- Develop and maintain internship program data across institutions—admissions, completions, retention in applying schools
- Financial resources are necessary for proper implementation of the internship program—financial responsibility may be shared among constituencies but requires discussion

Dr. Vrooman Peterson explained the project had started as the Chapter 57 review in hopes of bringing more teachers from out of state to be licensed and endorsed in Montana. This was seen as one way to bring more educators to rural schools. The rule itself sits in Chapter 55. Dr. Baker concluded by reading a comment an internship student made showing the passion and the plea of the student for this program to expand and improve.

ITEM 3 ACCREDITATION OF UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Dr. Bobbie Evans spoke about the rise of online universities and the difficulties OPI and brick and mortar schools face when defining what constitutes a quality education. According to last years document from OPI, many candidates who applied for a license in the state graduated from universities with state accreditation, not national accreditation; such as the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. These state accredited programs are not always a guaranteed quality program the way nationally accredited ones are seen. Due to the rise of online universities and state accredited programs there is a need to develop and implement a system to evaluate teacher education programs which are not nationally accredited. It is because of this Dr. Evans suggested the convergence of the conversations on key issues in Chapter 57 and 58. She also spoke about the difficulties newly graduated educators face when determining where they should go to teach—do they stay in state, as many would like, or do they leave and receive a higher income? To combat the alluring income other states have to offer, Montana universities are working hard to present the other elements these states hold; such as the higher costs of living. Ms. Elizabeth Keller stated the next steps would be to develop a stronger definition of accreditation for Montana's ARM Rules, work with the OPI's Educator Licensure unit and CSPAC to define an evaluation process, and determine which party has the burden of proof: the candidate or the teacher educator program. These steps will all be addressed by the Chapter 57 workgroup.

March 6, 2008 – Thursday
1:15 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 10 MACIE UPDATE - Norma Bixby

Mr. Voyd St. Pierre, Vice Chair of the Montana Council on Indian Education provided the MACIE Update versus Ms. Norma Bixby. MACIE requested that the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC), the Board of Public Education (BPE), and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) develop a profile of American Indian students in special education to determine if there is a disproportionate representation of American Indian students in special education. It is recommended that the study be carried out through the CSPAC research funds and other resources by September 2008. The agenda for the MACIE meeting that occurred on January 30, 2008 in Helena, MT was included.

Points that Mr. Voyd St. Pierre stressed from the MACIE meeting included the following:

1. Distance learning is a vital part of credit recovery for Native American students. Mr. Steve Meloy brought valuable information in regard to distance learning to the MACIE Meeting on January 30, 2008
2. Mr. Tim Harris, OPI, expressed concern in the belief that the Native American population is overrepresented in Special Education. It was address that CSPAC's research money be used to do a study that determines whether or not there is an over population as noted earlier and be ready by September-November 2008. OPI has a great database and may just need some refinement to obtain that data. Mr. Voyd St Pierre stressed the need for the parents to be

- involved in their children's education
3. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson addressed that Indian Education for All is vital. Prospective teachers need a strong base of technology and need assistance in professional development
 4. There are a variety of professional development grants available. There are many resources available to use for Indian Education. There continues to be a large achievement gap according to the data received from the 2007 Criterion Reference Test (CRT)
 5. Annual MIEA Conference April 24-26, 2008 Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, MT

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Patty Myers

CHAIR APPEARANCES

- 2/2/2008 Teacher of the Year Conference in Dallas, TX – Presented on Working with Policy Makers
- 2/4/2008 American Association of University Women – Great Falls, MT
- 2/11/2008 First Lady Nancy Schweitzer & Ms. Jan Lombardi attended Ms. Patty Myers' 2nd grade classroom at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Great Falls, MT
- 2/26/2008 MSDB Committee Meeting - Great Falls, MT

Ms. Patty Myers distributed Volume 92, No. 5, February 2008 national publication of the American Federation of Teachers. She mentioned upcoming meetings and passed around a document titled: The Turnaround Challenge: Why America's best opportunity to dramatically improve student achievement lies in our worst-performing schools. This document was prepared through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION APPEARANCES - Calendar Provided of Board Members and Staff Appearances for January, February, and March

Ms. Angela McLean

- 1/15/2008 Conference Call with Distance Learning Task Force Phase II
- 1/30/2008 Conference Call Planning Session for Safety Awareness Meeting
- 2/13/2008 Chaired Safety Awareness Meeting – Helena, MT
- 3/3/2008 Ms. Angela McLean's We the People Students had lunch in Helena, MT with the Board of Public Education staff which consisted of: Mr. Peter Donovan, Ms. Anneliese Warhank, and Ms. Carol Will. Students won first place in the We the People Competition and will be attending the national competition in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to Anaconda High School Students!

Dr. Kirk Miller

- 1/15/2008 Distance Learning Task Force Phase II – Helena, MT
- 1/24–26/2008 NASBE Government Affairs Committee – Alexandria, VA
- 1/29/2008 Conference Call regarding DLTFII Teacher Qualification Subgroup
- 2/7/2008 Conference Call regarding Class 8 Education Faculty License
- 2/12/2008 Conference Call regarding DLTFII Working Group Meeting
- 2/19/2008 Conference Call regarding DLTFII Working Group Meeting
- 2/25/2008 Conference Call regarding DLTFII Working Group Meeting

Mr. Storrs Bishop

- 1/15/2008 Distance Learning Task Force Phase II – Helena, MT
- 2/27/2008 MSDB Strategic Planning Session – Helena, MT

Mr. Bernie Olson

- 2/26/2008 MSDB Committee Meeting – Great Falls, MT
- 2/27/2008 MSDB Strategic Planning Session – Helena, MT

Item 2 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT - Steve Meloy

Here is a small sampling of the work before the Board of Public Education and its Executive Secretary. Mr. Steve Meloy provides weekly updates to the Board to keep them abreast of events.

- State Audit will be completed in the fall of 2008
- Internal control policies for the agency are being audited as well
- Welcome Mr. Bernie Olson– Thanks for jumping in to MSDB Strategic Planning
- The Board of Public Education is spending more time and money on processing appeals of revocations and denials. Many of these revocations are related to inappropriate internet online cases. Ms. Beda Lovitt, Administrative Law Judge, has been hired as the hearing examiner for many of these revocation cases. The Office of Public Instruction states there will be more cases
- Continue to work with the Legislative Fiscal Division on the fiscal responsibility processes for SB 152 and the effectiveness of the accreditation standards
- ITSD Plan includes a supplemental request to move the Board of Public Education to a paperless meeting
- Extensive work on sub-committee of the Distance Learning Task Force Phase II entertaining new “class 8” licensure
- Participating in the screening process for the Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education
- Attended the School Law Education for School Administrators Stakeholder meeting on February 21, 2008 to discuss the foundation of school law concepts and how the process is working
- The Montana Association of School Superintendents (MASS) will meet on March 31, 2008 in Helena

KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE WORKGROUP REPORT

On January 31, 2008 the K to College Workgroup had a presentation by the Commissioner of Labor, Mr. Keith Kelly on how to prepare our youth for jobs in the new global economy. Mr. Steve Meloy presented the progress of the Distance Learning Task Force Phase II (DLTFII) on the issues surrounding dual enrollment. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2008 and Ms. Barbie Ross from Apple will discuss some of the initiatives that have been completed. An example of an initiative is to put a computer in every 7th graders hand.

LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE REPORT

On January 23, 2008 was another meeting for the Learning First Alliance to bring education associations to band together around a compelling vision. A topic discussed was to apprise the needs of the “whole child” and answer the question about what assessments are needed to measure what is significant in a global society. There are presently 18 members nationally such as the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), National Education Association (NEA), and National School Boards Association (NSBA). Another meeting will be schedule in the near future.

Item 3 CSPAC REPORT - Peter Donovan

Mr. Peter Donovan was very brief in his report due to the joint meeting between CSPAC and the Board of Public Education. He extended his gratitude to Dr. Douglas Reisig and all CSPAC Members for their efforts toward the work of the Advisory Council on behalf of the Board. Mr. Peter Donovan expressed his thanks to the Council of Deans for their attendance and participation in the joint meeting in the morning. Standards for interpreters were presented under Item 29 and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Communicator was provided to outline the 80th Annual Conference June 1-4, 2008 in Westin Providence, Providence, Rhode Island.

Item 4 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - State Superintendent Linda McCulloch

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch presented to the Board January and February highlights of events along with the following points of interest:

- Superintendent communicates to congressional delegation
- Mary Gallagher hired as Director of Early Assistance Program

- Montana Teen Alcohol Report Available
- OPI announces new E-grants coordinator
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- AIM – Spring attendance collection from February 1 – February 16, 2008
Program participation collection from March 1 – March 26, 2008
Test window attendance collection from March 12-March 26, 2008
- NAEP news
- School finance staff announcements
- Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program – application will be posted on the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program’s website at <http://www.mgslp.org>. Applications must be received by May 31, 2008.
- Library media and technology content standards revision
- Kim Warrick – hired as the new curriculum specialist in the area of middle school and at-risk
- April 28-29, 2008 OPI Statewide Assessment Conference in Helena, MT
- Renee Harris was hired as the new Health Occupations Specialist
- Elimination of Federal Medicaid payments

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch provided a copy of the letter that was written to Representative Dennis Rehberg and Cc'd to Senator Max Baucus and Senator Jon Tester on February 29, 2008 in regard to the Office of Public Instruction’s opinion of Representative Don Young’s bill – **HR 648 No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007**. OPI acknowledged a number of “fixes” that make good sense and help Montana schools in addition to changes that made sense, even though they have little impact on Montana schools. Even though these improvements are real, they do not address the serious problem with the basic structure of the No Child Left Behind Act. OPI continued to list six fatal flaws that hurt education:

1. 100% proficiency is unrealistic even if it is a noble and worthy goal
2. Multiple measures are needed in reading and math. What about the other subjects? Can the students apply the knowledge? Engage in critical thinking? Etc...
3. School funding limitations prohibit schools from hiring teachers with multiple majors to meet the demands of the “highly quality teacher” rules
4. NCLB has changed local control to federal control
5. Funding is inadequate
6. The accountability measures of NCLB serve only to increase public unease about public education, without helping the schools improve

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch included some additional factors in her opinion, beyond Representative Don Young’s amendments, that should be included to improve the ESEA:

- Have more measures to determine school success and set realistic goals
- When there are consequences, make them helpful for improving school rather than the opposite
- Fully fund good federal requirements like IDEA
- Put local school boards back in charge of public education in Montana and return the federal government to its former primary role of general support and supplementation for special populations
- Give states flexible guidelines to pick the school most in need
- Give states adequate resources to address the schools picked as “most in need.”
- Provide “best practices” technical help to those schools using state and national resources
- Use other federal and state resources to attack the sources of poverty at the root

Another letter was presented to Senator Max Baucus dated January 31, 2008 asking him to advocate for the school renovation/construction and Title V funding for No Child Left Behind since he is the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance in the belief that these items will create jobs, infuse money into the local economy, and help education in Montana and across the nation.

A memorandum, dated March 4, 2008, was presented from Ms. Colet Bartow, Library Media Curriculum Specialist on the Library Media and Technology Content Standards progress report on the process facilitating the revision. Ms. Colet Bartow and Mr. Michael Hall shared a YouTube presentation titled

“Medieval Help Desk”. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFAWR6hzZek>

INDIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The Indian Education Report included the following points:

- OPI Indian Education website located at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd> is under construction which will make it more user-friendly and accessible
- Process guide for realizing Indian Education for All is available on the website at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/PUB/PDF/IndianEd/08ProcessGuide.pdf>
- Indian Education for All music curriculum is online at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/IndianEd/Curric/MoreThanDrums2008.pdf>
- Indian Legal Education for All
- Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) Annual Conference, April 24-26, 2008 in Missoula
- Indian Education for All 101 online course – FREE
- Digital teacher workshops for teachers of Native American students
- Fort Peck tribal history project
- Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference, May 8-9, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza in Billings
- Indian Education for All Ongoing Initiatives from July 2007 – March 2008
- Indian Student Achievement Ongoing Initiatives from July 2007 – March 2008

Item 5 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT - Commissioner Sheila Stearns

No report from the Commissioner of Higher Education due to the fact that the Board of Regents are meeting at the University of Montana - Western in Dillon, MT.

Item 7 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT - Katie Wood

Ms. Katie Wood sent out questionnaires about college preparedness to 12 different schools in the state. To date she has only received responses from 5 schools. The students that responded are from freshmen to seniors and a mix of boys and girls. Ms. Katie Wood does not know how the schools selected the students. The questions are:

- How prepared do you feel for college?
- For what part of college do you feel you need to prepare for better?
- What do you think your teachers/school needs to do to help you fully prepare for college?
- What is your idea of being “prepared” for college?
- Do you know what remediation tests are?

The most interesting response was that many students felt they need more college-like lectures and tasks or heavier college-like work loads to be better prepared.

3:00 p.m. Time Certain

Item 8 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - Patricia Chlouber, Regional Representative, U.S. Department of Education

Ms. Pat Chlouber brings greetings from the Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings to the state of Montana. Ms. Pat Chlouber acknowledged that No Child Left Behind (NCLB) has become a moving target, but noted there has been substantial increases in student performance since it became law. This law has become the new civil rights for students in the United States because it doesn’t just guarantee a seat in a classroom, they are guaranteed a quality education. States must continue to stay true to high standards, quality testing, quality teachers, and remain accountable. Ms. Pat Chlouber distributed the following documents: *The Teaching Ambassador Fellowship* and *Empowering Parents School Box*.

Much discussion ensued concerning the letter that was written to Representative Dennis Rehberg and Cc’d to Senator Max Baucus and Senator Jon Tester on February 29, 2008 in regard to the Office of Public Instruction’s opinion of Representative Don Young’s bill – **HR 648 No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007** that was presented during item 4. Ms. Pat Chlouber stated that she would

address State Superintendent Linda McCulloch's suggestions to the Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings. She stressed that Montana's achievement trends are higher than the national trends and Montana should be proud of the work that is occurring within the state. In addition, she noted that Montana will be significantly affected by the financial cuts made in Reading First.

Discussion continued in regard to Mr. Bernie Olson's question about how home schooling fits under the NCLB Act in Montana. State Superintendent Linda McCulloch stated that approximately 2-3% of students in Montana are home schooled and there is no accountability beyond notifying the county superintendents of who is being home schooled. Ms. Pat Chlouber acknowledged that there are a percentage of students being missed through private schools as well. If a student is using federal funds they need to be assessed and held accountable. Discussion continued about the accountability of all students.

Item 9 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – NASBE MEETING - Dr. Kirk Miller

Dr. Kirk Miller presented the Board with notes that he completed from the Government Affairs Committee NASBE Meeting that occurred on January 25-26, 2008 in Alexandria, VA. Mr. Doug Mesecar, Mr. Patrick Rooney, and Ms. Karen Kuzmich from the U.S. Department of Education Staff presented overviews at the Government Affairs Committee Meeting concerning communication and growth models of the reauthorization of NCLB, graduation rates, interventions, school choice, and Dashboards. Mr. Roberto Rodriguez, Chief Aide to Chairman Ted Kennedy (D-MA), presented Senator Kennedy's viewpoints of NCLB legislation. Some identified goals include closing the achievement gap, getting resources to those in need, and taking on new challenges that should be address in ESEA. Mr. Loyd Horwich, Aide to Representative Dale Kildee, Chairman, House Education Reform Subcommittee presented Chairman Kildee's viewpoints of the NCLB legislation. Chairman Kildee hopes for the following three concepts out the reauthorization are growth models, multiple indicators, and differentiated interventions. In conclusion, the Government Affairs Committee meeting closed with review and discussion.

Dr. Kirk Miller will be attending the NASBE Legislative Conference in Washington D.C March 13-14, 2008 and plans to meet with Senator Jon Tester, Senator Max Baucus, and Representative Dennis Rehberg. He will reemphasize what State Superintendent Linda McCulloch has stressed in her letters that were sent on February 29, 2008 in regard to the Office of Public Instruction's opinion of Representative Don Young's bill – **HR 648 No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007** that was presented during item 4.

Item 11 ANNUAL SCHOOL NUTRITION REPORT - Christine Emerson

Ms. Christine Emerson is ill. She will reschedule this presentation for the July 10-11, 2008 Board of Public Education Meeting.

Item 12 MONTANA TEAM ASTHMA PROJECT AND THE SCHOOL WELLNESS PROGRAM REPORT - Cathy Kendall, Bob Vogel, and Steve Meloy

This presentation highlighted selected activities in the areas of health and wellness being planned and implemented by the Health Enhancement Division. The *Montana School Wellness in Action! A Step-By-Step Guide to School Wellness Policy Implementation* was presented. This guide provides practical, step-by-step approach to putting your School Wellness Policy into action. Included are ideas and strategies for improving both the nutrition and physical activity environments from Montana schools. These strategies take into account important considerations such as acceptance of change by stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, administrators, food service workers and more) as well as financial viability concerns associated with changes in the school environment. An overview of the step-by-step approach to School Wellness Policy implementation is as follows:

1. Form a Wellness Committee
2. Communicate with Stakeholders
3. Assess School Wellness Environment
4. Create a Master Plan
5. Prioritize-Select Year's Goals

6. Evaluate Progress

Montana is one of five states selected to participate in project jointly-sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA). The interest in participating in this project was simply based on the fact that asthma is a major, growing health concern for students and school districts staff, that the Montana Legislature has passes "asthma" bills in both of the last two sessions, and that school districts need information on asthma and help in finding this information. The initial and current goals of the "Montana Team" are:

- Establish the team and build the capacity of the team
- Identify and assess where Montana is in asthma school management
- Create and/or increase awareness of asthma issues as related to school wellness
- Provide information on all aspects of school health issues (liability, achievement, policies, teaching materials, in-service materials) to all stakeholders in Montana

Discussion ensued about self-medication and where to keep it for readily access. There is severe under reporting of asthma that may be contributed to the cost of medication. This team will be looking at developing policies to address the needs.

Item 13 ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION REPORT - Maxine Mougeot

This presentation included information regarding the continued growth of the school bus driver-training program, the new web-based transportation program, and information about Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding lap/shoulder belts in school buses. The presentation was designed to update the Board of Public Education with limited statistics, current issues facing the transportation community, and current success of the transportation program.

Ms. Maxine Mougeot the Pupil Transportation Director for the State of Montana stated that they transport nearly 70,000 of Montana's school children with certified school bus drivers who drive 18,072,114 miles per year. The school bus driver training program continues to be among the highest priority. The Montana Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) will hold the annual training conference in Billings in June of 2008.

The web-based on-line transportation program allows school districts to manage and be responsible for their own data that includes information such as: Number of students transported via school bus, school bus route miles traveled per year, number of school bus routes, number of individual contracts (parent paid to transport children), ownership of school buses, and model year of school buses. School districts can roll forward consistent prior year data, make minor adjustments and print the completed documents for the ensuing year.

The seat belt issue is extremely emotional and controversial. In the fall of 2007, the federal government issued a notice of proposed rule making (NPRM) that deals with some of these issues:

- Safety of the small uses, 10,000 pounds or less – The NPRM discusses putting 24 inch seat backs in all buses and lap should restraints in all small buses. This is a federal requirement for Head Start buses already
- Installing lap/shoulder belts in large school buses

Ms. Maxine Mougeot raised some concerns about the proposed language because it doesn't deter districts from installing lap only belts which are much cheaper but provide more danger to students and the lack of dedicated funding. She intends to invite the Transportation Advisory Panel to the Office of Public Instruction to work on addressing issues like funding, training of drivers, training of students, liability issues for districts and drivers, and protocol for installation and service of the belting systems. The NPRM suggest that Federal Section 402 funding be used to help districts if they decide to install belting systems in their buses. These funds are currently used for existing highway safety programs and are limited.

Discussion ensued about the increases in contract owned buses and the complex emotional issues that exist within this topic.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 30 MSDB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT - Steve Gettel

Ms. Patty Myers announced that the MSDB Academic Bowl team recently won first place as they competed against 16 other teams at the Western Regional at CSDB (Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind). They will now travel to Washington DC, April 26-29, 2008 to compete against 9 other teams at

Gallaudet University for the National Academic Bowl competition. This is the first time MSDB has taken 1st or gone to Nationals. Congratulations!

The following items were discussed during the MSDB Committee meeting report:

1. Student enrollment/evaluation
2. Human resources
 - Personnel actions
 - Update on core competencies project and agency move to PP020
3. School improvement
 - Update on current year CEP and effectiveness report
 - Update on strategic planning process
 - Update on LFC performance measures and LAD performance audit
 - Update on proposals for the 2011 biennial budget
4. Professional development activities
 - Update on in-service training
5. MSDB foundation activities
 - Update projects and grants
6. Conferences, meetings and contacts
7. Budget and finance
 - Update on budget
 - Update on LAD fiscal audit
8. Facilities and safety
 - Update on current projects
9. School calendar of events
10. Student news and school events
11. Public comment for non-agenda items

Meeting Closed 4:40 p.m.

MEETING WILL BE CLOSED (ITEM 26)

ACTION ITEMS

**Item 26 MSDB SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & CONTRACT EXTENSION -
Patty Myers**

Meeting Opened 5:11 p.m.

MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to extend the MSDB Superintendent's contract until June 30, 2011. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

March 7, 2008 – Friday

8:30 a.m.

Item 6 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - Jan Lombardi

Listed is a sampling of the many activities Governor Schweitzer and Ms. Jan Lombardi have been involved

with recently:

- Governor Schweitzer attended Principal-of-the-Year along with Attorney General Mike McGrath
- Attended Chicks Dig Science – Billings, MT
- Launched 16 new geological road signs
- Next K – College Workgroup Meeting with Apple on April 1, 2008
- Visited Ryegate and Roundup Schools
- Participated in MSDB Strategic Planning
- Request to not overlap schedules with BPE and Regents

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 14 ASSESSMENT UPDATE - Judy Snow

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan versus Ms. Judy Snow provided an update on the progress of the items that were presented to the Board of Public Education at its January 2008 meeting. An overview of the OPI Statewide Assessment Conference on April 28-29, 2008 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena was discussed. The following timeline was provided for the upcoming assessment work:

March 2008	-Request for bids <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NRT Study• Focus groups and questionnaire• Survey, analysis, and reports
April – July 2008	-Conduct focus groups -Develop questionnaire
April – September 2008	-NRT data analysis, reports, recommendations
May – July 2008 assessment	-Request for Information (RFI) for writing
August 2008	-Request for Proposals (RFP) for writing assessment
August – November 2008	-Survey, survey analysis, reports, and recommendations

OPI provided five recommendations and identified the current status for the best use of state funding for student assessment in the 2009 biennium. If the Board wishes to proceed with any or all of these recommendations, OPI will begin working on their implementation and bring more detailed plans and timelines to the Board.

- **Recommendation 1: Pilot a writing assessment for K-12**

Current Status:

1. Assessment Conference

Three sections on writing assessment by an invited expert will present and/or moderate panels

- Purpose and technical aspects of writing assessments
- Moderated panel on local writing assessment
 - Panelists are representatives of systems and schools which administer a local writing assessment
- Moderated panel on commercial writing assessments
 - Panelists are representatives of vendors who specialize in off-the shelf, online, and/or customized writing assessments
- Focus groups will consider questions regarding writing assessment

2. Following the Assessment Conference

- Testing contractors will present demonstrations, discussions, and questions and answer sessions regarding their work with writing assessments (CTB-McGraw-Hill,

Riverside, and Measured Progress currently confirmed)

- May RFI and August RFP will follow

- **Recommendation 2: Analysis of 7-years of NRT results**

Current Status:

Requests for bids from psychometricians are currently in process. Analysis and a written report will be presented to the Board of Public Education at its September 2008 meeting

- **Recommendation 3: Creating interest and awareness in formative assessment**

Current Status:

1. Assessment Conference

- Emphasis of the conference keynoters is formative assessment
- Sessions on formative assessment will be presented including:
 - Moderated panel on commercial formative assessments
 - Use of NAEP Questions Tool as a resource for constructing classroom formative assessments
 - Use of Smart Boards and other technology for classroom formative assessment
- Focus groups will consider questions regarding formative assessment

2. 2008 MEA-MFT Educator Conference: Moderated panel on formative assessment examples in Montana Schools

3. Will contract for professional development modules on best practices in formative assessment

- **Recommendation 4: Survey of school districts to identify needs for state and local assessment**

Current Status:

The process begins with the focus groups to provide input for the questionnaire. Following the focus groups, a questionnaire will be developed based on themes raised by the focus groups including writing/performance assessments, local assessment needs, formative assessment needs, and suggestions for the next generation of the CRT

- **Recommendation 5: Form an assessment task force**

Current Status:

The original recommendation of the survey dates has been amended so that focus groups at the April 2008 statewide assessment conference can inform the content of the questionnaire. The OPI will work with the Board of Public Education to convene the assessment task force to provide input and recommendations on the questionnaire drafts. The final questionnaire will be used in a statewide survey. Under the new timeline, the survey would be conducted in September 2008. A written report and recommendations will be presented to the Board at its November 2008 meeting.

Ms. Sharon Carroll will be in contact with OPI to determine who should be on the assessment task force.

Item 15 MAJOR IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION K-12 TEACHING

ENDORSEMENT PROPOSED BY CARROLL COLLEGE - Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Dr. Lynette Zuroff, Carroll College; and Ms. Gloria Lambertz, Carroll College provided information to the Board of Public Education regarding the request by Carroll College to add a Health and Physical Education K-12 Major to the Professional Education Unit's educator endorsement program areas. The major program requirements, other program requirements, and professional education program requirements were provided. Ms. Gloria Lambertz stated that the Carroll College students will be better prepared and more marketable if they have this major versus the endorsement. Carroll College has used the standards as a guideline and all of the resources are in place to sustain this major. Dr. Lynette Zuroff noted that they intend to come to the May BPE meeting for the Board's action.

Item 16 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM REPORT - Dr. Linda Vrooman

Peterson and Elizabeth Keller

As required by Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.58.104 Approved Programs, this presentation provided the Board with information about the approved professional education units at nine of the institutions of higher education in Montana. The educator preparation programs offered by the Professional Education Units of Montana 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, 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. The Title II, HEA Report was included in the agenda packet. The On-Site Review Schedule 2007-2014 for NCATE/State and Montana State Accreditation and the Review Schedule 2007-2013 NCATE/State and Full State Accreditation was provided.

Discussion ensued around the upcoming visit at Western Montana College of the University of Montana on October 25-29, 2008. Dr. Kirk Miller was interested in attending this review. Ms. Elizabeth Keller reported on the number of internship participants by subject area during the 2007-2008 school year. The question was raised by Mr. Bernie Olson as to why Montana State University has chosen to be accredited by TEAC versus NCATE and whether or not the graduating students would receive any disservices? Dr. Vrooman Peterson suggested that he contact Dr. Larry Baker to address that question.

Item 17 SAFETY AWARENESS - Angela McLean, Elizabeth Keller, and Peter Donovan

The Safety Awareness meeting occurred on February 13, 2008 in Helena, MT. The following were in attendance: Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Kathleen Magone, OPI; Dr. Claudette Morton, MSSA; Dr. Larry Baker, MSU Bozeman; Dr. Lynette Zuroff, Carroll College; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Dee Maclean, PTA; Mr. Pete Donovan, CSPAC; Mr. Steve Meloy, BPE; Mr. Larry Nielsen, MEA-MFT; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Mr. Pat Audet, SAM; Mr. Chris Utzinger, UM Missoula; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, CSPAC. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Angela McLean, Vice Chair, BPE. Ms. Angela McLean provided a brief history of how this meeting was conceptualized. She recognized that many groups had already done things to help deter the problems of threshold behaviors in schools, but felt it would behoove those in education to work together and develop a larger plan incorporating every constituent group. The meeting agenda and highlights were provided in the agenda packet. In conclusion, Ms. Angela McLean felt that after hearing what each group had done and what they would like to do in the future, everyone present agreed to meet again. No specific date was selected.

There has been a significant increase of denials, letters of reprimands, and suspensions or revocation cases in Montana as well as other states. Ms. Kathleen Magone and Ms. Elizabeth Keller have drafted a document that provides an overview of the Montana process for educator licensure. Once it has been through OPI's publication process it will be available.

9:30 a.m. Time Certain

Item 18 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION CANDIDATE - Dr. Claudette Morton, Democratic Candidate

Dr. Claudette Morton expressed her appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to discuss her vision of the relationship between the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education. Her background experience includes the following:

- Professor and administrator at the University of Montana – Western
- Executive Secretary to the Montana Board of Public Education
- Curriculum Specialist with the Montana Office of Public Instruction
- English teacher in the Glasgow Public Schools
- Professional and education positions in Montana, Texas, and Germany
- Instructor and adjunct professorships in four universities
- Presenter at conferences and seminars in 40 states, China, Scotland, and Canada

- Numerous state and national awards for contributions to education including service on committees and task forces of the U.S. Department of Education
- Recipient of the 2007 “Daring Dozen” award from the George Lucas Educational Foundation as one of twelve educators in the nation who are reshaping public education
- Bachelor and master degrees in theatre and English education and a doctorate in education administration from the University of Montana, Missoula

Dr. Claudette Morton believes that she has a unique perspective to the relationship having served in both entities. The Board of Public Education’s constitutional empowerment has been very important since 1972 and she values its authority. She expressed her belief in the standards, involvement in writing the standards, participation in accreditation visits, and the desire to move forward with the assessment work being addressed. An election pamphlet was distributed stating her platform. In conclusion, she stated that if elected as State Superintendent, the Office of Public Education’s staff would be available for the work of the Board of Public Education because the OPI staff is the expert.

Item 19 DISTANCE LEARNING - Dr. Kirk Miller and Bud Williams

Mr. Bud Williams provided a brief history of the progress that has been made concerning distance learning within the past 2 years. The subgroup that is working on a Class 8 license continues to meet with its educational partners. A position paper was written by Dr. Tom Gibson, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), concerning higher education’s issues and concerns about distance learning that was presented to the task force. Mr. Bud Williams also acknowledged that after meeting with the Council of Deans he believes that they are generally supportive. Other points of discussion included:

- Extent of pedagogy needed
- Who should review the applicants?
 - Provost
 - Deans
- Close to agreement among the K-12 community

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch stressed the need to attend to the issues surrounding the highly qualified teacher definition which is predicated on licensure and endorsement. Many expressed their thanks and acknowledged all the work that is being done on this important issue. Next DLTFII meeting will occur on May 1, 2008.

Mr. Geoffrey A. Feiss from the Montana Telecommunications Association stated that there are red flags flying all over the distance learning project. The internet provides opportunities to vast resources with minimal costs. Mr. Feiss warned that where the Board is heading with this rule appears to be restrictive and hinders the delivery of educational opportunities to Montana students.

10:00 a.m. Time Certain

Item 18a SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION CANDIDATE – Ms. Holly Raser, Democratic Candidate

Representative Holly Raser is currently a teacher for 27 years in the classroom, gifted and talented program, and Title I. In addition to her role as a teacher she has been a legislator since 2000 and has served on a variety of commissions and panels which include:

- State Action for Educational Leadership Project (SAELP)
- State Special Education Advisory Panel
- School Renewal Commission – Believes in the prototype to build consensus among stakeholders
- Select Committees for Educational Funding
- Vice-Chair of the House of Education and Local Government Committee

These experiences have provided her the opportunity to develop working relationships and communicate effectively with a variety of people across the state to get things accomplished most effectively. As we look to build consensus, the ability to listen is the most important part of communicating. Three issues that addressed are:

1. School funding

2. Full-day Kindergarten
3. Generational poverty

Even though all of the candidates would be competent, she can offer the following differences: Legislative experience, working relationships, grasp of important issues, communication, passion for education, and currently works in the schools and understands how standards, policies, and delivery impacts Montana students.

Item 20 PROGRESS REPORT ON ON-SITE ACCREDITATION VISITS FOR SCHOOLS WITH CONTINUING SERIOUS ACCREDITATION DEVIATIONS - AI McMilin

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education a progress report on on-site accreditation visits for schools with continuing serious accreditation deviations. The final report, which verifies the current status of those plans following a review of the 2007-2008 Annual Data Collection, will be presented to the BPE at its May 2008 meeting. An outlying issue that was presented: The State Superintendent of Public Instruction provides annual recommendations to the Board of Public Education for accreditation status determinations for all Montana accredited schools. The continuing concern is: How does the OPI accreditation staff address continuing deviations fairly, consistently, and with intention toward continuous education improvement? The State Superintendent follows the process approved by the BPE to address ongoing accreditation deviations. The Accreditation Response Options for Continuing Deviations was included.

Several errors have been discovered in the original recommendation report and time allowed for them to be corrected. Enclosed in the record is the corrected document and a list of changes made. In addition, OPI is providing the Board with two additional reports that give more detail on some of the data provided in the recommendation report. The additional reports are: 1) Teacher Misassignment by County and District 2007-2008 Report and 2) Summary of Library and Counseling Accreditation Issues by County/District/School 2007-2008 Report.

Item 21 PROGRESS REPORT ON REVISED 2006-2007 IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR SCHOOLS WITH ADVICE OR DEFICIENCY ACCREDITATION STATUS - AI McMilin

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education a progress report of the improvement to correct accreditation deviations. This report provided current information on the action taken by schools to meet the 2006-2007 improvement plans. By August 1, each school receiving Advice or Deficiency Accreditation determinations is required to submit an improvement plan describing its action to correct the deviations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Board on every action item on the agenda prior to final Board action.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 22 2007-2008 FINAL ACCREDITATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS – AI McMilin

This presentation provided to the Board of Public Education for consideration the final 2007-2008 accreditation determinations for all schools as recommended by the State Superintendent Linda McCulloch. Mr. AI McMilin brought Ms. Karen Crogin to the table for introduction and to assist in the presentation. Mr. AI McMilin provided an overview of the structure of the report and noted that BPE accredits by school. Both advice and deficiency need not be multiple year deviations, some significant ones such as licensure can kick a school into deviation within the first year. This is the 6th year using the electronic format and the reporting/recording is getting better and better. This report should be about 95% accurate according to Mr. McMilin.

Mr. Al McMilin provided a brief analysis of the difference between 2006-2007 and this 2007-2008. Note there is a spike in non-licensed teachers. Page 7 of the report indicated that non-licensed teachers is the most significant deviation with the accreditation standards. According to Montana Code Annotated 20-4-202 teacher and specialist certification registration, (1) "If a teacher or specialist does not register his certificate with the county superintendent within 60 calendar days after he begins to perform his services, he shall not be eligible to receive any further compensation under his contract of employment until he has registered his certificate." The number of schools has nearly tripled with deviations of non-licensed teachers. There were 31 schools in 2006-2007 and 86 schools in 2007-2008 with non-licensed staff. This can be a duplicated count because you could have one non-licensed teacher that affects three schools. The unduplicated count according to this report is 57 non-licensed teachers. Schools have until December 1 to correct deficiencies. Thus 20 of the 57 non-licensed teachers have corrected this deficiency and OPI maintains these records, but it is still recorded as a deficiency. There are many factors as to the reason that many teachers do not obtain their license within the allotted time. There are 12 schools that are in their second year of using non-licensed teachers. Discussion ensued about the on-line certification process being more streamlined.

Mr. Al McMilin reviewed the 2007-2008 Teacher Misassignment by County and District Report. It addresses the number of periods (middle grades and high school) or portion of the day (elementary) that a teacher is misassigned. This report will be reoccurring each year along with the Montana Accreditation Status Recommendations. The following "note" will be added to the accreditation letter for each school showing misassigned teachers because the state is obligated under the provisions of No Child Left Behind to notify the school and district to implement a plan to remedy the misassignment:

Under the provisions of the NCLB a teacher who is not endorsed in the area(s) in which he/she is assigned to teach is considered as not meeting the federal definition of "highly qualified." NCLB further requires that a district that has such misassigned teacher(s) is required to submit a plan to the state detailing how the district will correct that misassignment. One or more schools in the district have such misassigned teachers. In addition, due to the advice or deficiency status of one or more of the schools in the district, the district must submit an overall improvement plan to correct accreditation deviations in those schools. One plan addressing both of the above requirements is due to the Office of Public Instruction, Accreditation Division, by August 1, 2008.

Mr. Al McMilin reviewed the 2007-2008 Summary of Library and Counseling Accreditation Issues by County/District/School Report. Library has remained fairly constant with no significant changes in library. Counseling deviations are down from last year with the exception of the no-services category. There are some districts using alternative standards for counseling. Discussion ensued about deficiencies in world language and private schools. Mr. Al McMilin stated that there are only 11 schools fully accredited by the state.

Dr. Kirk Miller posed the following questions on behalf of the Board to attempt to find out why 27% (1/4) of all schools and 32% (1/3) of our middle schools are in advice or deficiency status. These figures do not even include first time misassignment of teachers:

- Are the Board's rules aligned with current best practices of schools in the global society?
- Have the reporting data bases become more sophisticated and therefore skew the collection of more effective, useable, data?
- Why are local school districts making choices to not meet the given standard?
- Is there a scarcity of resources which don't allow the local school districts to meet the standards given their best effort to do so? Could scarcity of resources be broken down into scarcity of time, human resources, and/or fiscal resources?

He stressed that the answers to these questions will help the Board review the rules to determine if the Board is implementing the rules to the fullest capacity? There are a variety of factors that influence these increases and the Board needs to investigate further with OPI's assistance.

Item 23 MASTER OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PROPOSED BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT - Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

In September the Office of Public Instruction presented to the Board of Public Instruction presented to the Board of Public Education information regarding an initial proposal to develop a Master of Educational Leadership program in the Professional Education Unit at Rocky Mountain College in Billings. Dr. Barbara Vail discussed the continued work of the Professional Education Unit of Rocky Mountain College toward its goal to launch the Master in Educational Leadership program. At the November 2007 meeting Dr. Barbara Vail, Dr. Jo Swain, and Dr. Stevie Schmitz provided additional information related to the proposed program including confirmation of final approval by the Rocky faculty to develop the program.

The Office of Public Instruction conducted an off-site review of the proposed Master of Educational Leadership as prepared by Rocky Mountain College. State Superintendent Linda McCulloch reviewed those comments from the off-site team and recommends provisional approval of the Master of Educational Leadership program at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana. Based upon the responses to the off-site review findings, the State Superintendent recommends provisional approval of the Master of Educational Leadership program at Rocky Mountain College. A follow-up on-site visit will occur within two years from March 2008, to assess the level of preparation of the Rocky Mountain College Master of Educational Leadership candidates. A letter written to Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson by Michael

R. Mace, President of Rocky Mountain College and the evaluation rubric for educational leadership candidates was included.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to accept provisional approval of the Master of Education Leadership Program as proposed by Rocky Mountain College's Professional Education Unit. Dr. Kirk Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

Item 24 ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDAR - Patty Myers

The Office of Public Instruction requested to move the Special Education Report to July of each year due to the timing of the reporting methods and to prevent additional OPI employees from traveling for away meetings. Ms. Patty Myers also requested to remove the item titled Distribute Survey Instruments from May of 2008 and 2009 calendars.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to move the Special Education Report to July of each year and delete Distribute Survey Instruments from the Annual Agenda Calendars for 2008 and 2009. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

Item 25 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS - Patty Myers

Ms. Patty Myers asked Mr. Bernie Olson if he would fulfill the roles of former Board Member Mr. John Fuller on the MSDB Committee and Legislative Committee. In addition, she asked him to serve in her place on the MSDB Foundation under the Advisory Group Liaisons until 2009 when Ms. Patty Myers intends to retire from teaching and would have more time to step back into that role. Ms. Patty Myers also noted that the Board of Public Education's Committee Assignments list should include Dr. Kirk Miller and herself as serving on the Education and Local Government Interim K-12 Subcommittee under the Legislative Committee.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to have Mr. Bernie Olson serve on the MSDB Committee and Chair the Legislative Committee under STANDING COMMITTEES. Under the ADVISORY GROUP LIAISON, Mr. Bernie Olson will serve on the MSDB Foundation (until Ms. Patty Myers is ready to resume). In addition, Ms. Angela McLean moved to add Dr. Kirk Miller and Ms. Patty Myers as serving on the Education and Local Government Interim K-12 Subcommittee under the LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Item 29 INTERPRETER STANDARDS - Steve Gettel and Peter Donovan

The Board of Public Education members received the educational services guidelines for Meeting the Needs of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc. Mr. Peter Donovan received a list of recommended participants to contact from Mr. Steve Gettel in regard to beginning the work on the interpreter standards. Mr. Peter Donovan and CSPAC look forward to the challenge of this national and regional issue. There was discussion about whether this is a licensure or accreditation issue. Consensus occurred by Mr. Pete Donovan and Mr. Steve Meloy that it is more of a licensure issue.

ACTION ITEMS

MEETING WILL BE CLOSED (ITEMS 27-28)

12:36 p.m. Closed Session

1:25 p.m. Open Session

Item 27 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & CONTRACT EXTENSION - Patty Myers

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to extend the Executive Secretary's contract to 2011. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

Item 28 ESTABLISH EXECUTIVE STAFF SALARIES - Patty Myers

MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to establish the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, Superintendent, Steve Gettel's annual salary for the 2008 – 2009 school year beginning July 1, 2008 at \$85,022.00. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to establish the Board of Public Education, Executive Secretary, Steve Meloy's annual salary for fiscal year 2009 beginning July 1, 2008 at \$88,277.25. Mr. Cal Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

1: 30 p.m. Ms. Angela McLean Departed

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – May 8-9, 2008

Student Representative Survey Report
CSPAC Appointments
Licensure Issues
-Revocation Case May 8, 2008
-Denial Case May 8, 2008 2:45 p.m.
NCLB Update
MACIE Update
Alternative Standards Request & Renewals
Assessment Update
BASE Aid Payment Schedule
Superintendent Candidates
NASBE Legislative Conference

K-12 Subcommittee
Education and Local Government
K-College Workgroup
Distance Learning
MSDB

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to adjourn the Board of Public Education meeting. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded. Ms. Angela McLean and Ms. Sharon Carroll was absent for the vote.

1:46 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

Approved