

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

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Montana State Capitol, Room 317**  
**Helena, MT**

**Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. Chair Carroll welcomed guests and Ms. Stockton took roll call. Chair Carroll read the Statement of Public Participation.

Board members present included: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Dr. Darlene Schottle; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Mr. John Edwards; Ms. Greta Gustafson. Ex Officio members included: Dr. John Cech, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education; Superintendent of Public Instruction Ms. Denise Juneau; Ms. Siri Smillie, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Bullock. Staff members present included: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Guests present included: Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Susan Court, OPI; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Ms. Kris Minard, OPI; Ms. Amy Williams, OCHE; Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Mr. Bob Currie, Montana Digital Academy; Mr. Jim Fryer, Hobson, MT; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, OPI.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment from Mr. Jim Fryer, Hobson, MT.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

**Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.**

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

❖ **REPORTS – Sharon Carroll (Items 1-6)**

**Item 1**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Sharon Carroll**

- **BPE Goal Review** – Process for review began at July Strategic Planning and will be carried over until July 2016 Strategic Planning.
- **BPE Committees** – Chair Carroll called for volunteers for the committees vacated by Board member Taylor. Mr. Jesse Barnhart was appointed to the Legislative and Accreditation Committees. Dr. Schottle was appointed to the Licensure Committee, and Ms. Mary Jo Bremner to the ELG Committee.

## ACTION

### PUBLIC COMMENT

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

#### Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan gave an update on the joint presentation given at the MEA-MFT conference in October. Other presenters were the Commissioner of Higher Education's office and the OPI. Mr. Donovan discussed the new brochures and county number cards designed by Ms. Balsam. Mr. Donovan also reviewed other meetings and conferences he has attended since the September meeting, including a meeting with Superintendents surrounding issues they have in small schools with recruitment and retention.

- **CSPAC Appointment – Noreen Burris-Specialist Position**  
*Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the application from Ms. Noreen Burris to the Specialist Position on the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Donovan requested an update from Mr. Stutz regarding a pending case against the Montana High School Association and a student's eligibility to play extracurricular sports after receiving a HiSet diploma. Board rules ARM 10.66.110 and 10.66.111 regarding HiSet are the basis for the argument.

#### Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT State Superintendent Denise Juneau

Superintendent Juneau updated the Board on activities at the Office of Public Instruction including the Negotiated Rulemaking Process for both the Health Standards and the Art Standards, the awarding of National Board certification to teachers across the state, the Student Advisory Board meeting, Schools of Promise tour, and an upcoming meeting of the Chief State School Officers to be held in Montana.

- **Request BPE Approval of Nomination of Mr. John Salois to MACIE**

*Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Superintendent's request to approve Mr. John Salois to the MACIE. Motion seconded by Mr. John Edwards.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

## INFORMATION

#### Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT Dr. John Cech

Dr. Cech updated the Board on the partnership between OCHE and OPI in regards to Dual Enrollment, and then discussed the work with the Carl Perkins Act, also in conjunction with OPI, to encourage career and technical studies in K-12 and post-secondary education. The state plan is in the process of being re-written as is required to be done every five years per Federal regulations. Dr. Cech also discussed College Application Week, a partnership with OPI, for high school seniors to apply to Montana colleges

and universities free of charge. Ms. Amy Williams, Program Manager – Dual Enrollment and Big Sky Pathways at OCHE presented to the Board. Ms. Williams fielded questions from Board members.

**Item 5                            GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT**  
**Siri Smillie**

Ms. Siri Smillie gave the update for the Governor's Office. Ms. Smillie reviewed the Board of Education meeting from the morning, in particular ongoing partnerships between K-12 and Higher Education which benefit and assist students through their educational careers.

**Item 6                            STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**  
**Greta Gustafson**

Ms. Greta Gustafson updated the Board on her activities since the September meeting, including the State Student Government Board and educating students on what the Board of Public Education does. Ms. Gustafson announced that applications for the new student representative to the Board will be sent out soon, then discussed work she has been doing at her school so far this year.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**2:00 TIME CERTAIN**

❖ **MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Item 7)**

**Item 7                            MSDB REPORT**  
**Donna Sorensen**

Ms. Donna Sorensen joined the meeting via conference call and updated the Board on new happenings at the MSDB. The school audit produced no significant findings, and the MSDB Foundation Board is recruiting new members. Ms. Sorensen discussed enrollment, Human Resources, student activities, Outreach, student services, safety and facilities, and other happenings at the school. Ms. Donna Schmidt briefly discussed the school budget and foundation budget. Ms. Sorensen discussed some legislative funding issues that may affect the school. A link to the school Christmas program on December 17<sup>th</sup> will be sent for anyone to watch if they choose.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Items 8-10 )**

**Item 8                            MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY REPORT**  
**Robert Currie**

Mr. Bob Currie updated the Board on the growth of the Digital Academy since its inception in 2011, and also reviewed the newer product, EdReady, being used in classrooms across the state to assist students in their math preparation for post-secondary education.

**Item 9                            YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY**  
**Susan Court**

Ms. Susan Court presented the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to the Board. The survey is conducted with high school students across the state annually.

**Item 10                          MONTANA TOBACCO FREE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF EXCELLENCE**  
**Kris Minard**

Ms. Kris Minard presented to the Board Tobacco Free School Districts of Excellence per a position statement by the BPE in 2005 to create comprehensive policy to decrease tobacco use among students. The OPI partnered with MTSBA, MREA, SAM, and other educational partners to get the word out to school districts to promote tobacco free policies in their schools. In 2015, 72% of school districts are tobacco free districts. Ms. Minard discussed the issues surrounding the E-cigarettes and that in Montana

there are no laws regarding electronic vapor products. The only law will be effective January 1, 2016 that states an individual must be 18 years old to purchase. Ms. Minard fielded questions from the Board members.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – John Edwards (Items 11-13)**

**Item 11                               NEW CURRICULAR PROGRAM IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 3 (ECE P-3); THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PROPOSES TO ADD A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ECE P-3  
Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Susan Harper-Whalen, Associate Dean, UM; Kristi Murphy, Licensure Official, UM**

Dr. Linda Peterson presented the new program to the Board and turned it over to Ms. Susan Harper-Whalen, Associate Dean, UM, who explained the new program the University is proposing. The new program is in response to high demand from their students for a Bachelor's degree program, as well as workforce demands. Ms. Harper-Whalen distributed a revised timeline for the program and answered Board questions. Dr. Peterson reviewed the timeline for the Board with the hopes of presenting the new program to the Board for approval in spring 2016.

**ACTION**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**Item 12                               APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARM 10.57.412, 10.57.425, AND 10.57.426 PERTAINING TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE  
Ann Gilkey**

Ms. Gilkey reviewed the rule revisions for the Board and requested approval from the Board.

**Mr. John Edwards moved to approve the Superintendent's request that the Board of Public Education approve the amendment of ARM 10.57.412, 10.57.425, and 10.57.426, pertaining to educator licensure, response to comment, and authorize the filing of the attached Notice with the Secretary of State for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.**

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Item 13                               RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE MONTANA MINIMUM SCORE ON PRAXIS II CONTENT KNOWLEDGE TESTS REQUIRED BY ARM 10.57.410(3)  
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson reviewed the PRAXIS II test requirements for out of state teachers seeking licensure to close loop holes for individuals to receive a Montana license but who will never teach in Montana. The process will set minimum scores the individual must meet in order to obtain a Montana teaching license.

**Mr. John Edwards moved to approve the Superintendent's request to approve the minimum score on the Praxis II Content Knowledge tests as required by ARM 10.57.410(3). Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.**

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Darlene Schottle (Item 14)**

**Item 14 RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT  
Superintendent Juneau**

Dr. Schottle reviewed the circumstances surrounding the SBAC testing cycle in the Spring 2015.

**Dr. Schottle moved to approve the Superintendent's request that schools be held harmless for not testing all students are required in ARM 10.56.101, and to identify those schools with an addendum to the Annual Accreditation Report for 2015-16 and to revisit ARM 10.56.101 to align with ESEA requirements. The BPE recognizes that the SBAC testing cycle in the Spring of 2015 posed a unique set of circumstances which led to the Superintendent waving the BPE rule ARM 10.56.101. This is not to be considered a precedent for future testing cycles. If the issue arises again, the BPE does retain the right to disapprove the Superintendent's decision.**

Discussion surrounding the wording of the motion. Superintendent Juneau noted her objection to the last line of the motion stating that the Board can disapprove of the Superintendent's decision regarding assessment. Chair Carroll asked for clarification from the Superintendent regarding the ESEA assessment requirements. The Superintendent recommended the Board bring in educators from across the state to address those concerns.

***Motion seconded by Mr. John Edwards.***

Motion revised to strike with "ESEA requirements" and "If the issue arises again the Board of public Education retains the right to enforce ARM rules."

Revised motion seconded by Mr. John Edwards.

Public Comment from Mr. Jim Fryer, Hobson, MT regarding issues experienced at his local school and passed out research he has done regarding SBAC issues around the country which he reviewed with the Board.

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

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Item 15)**

**Item 15 APPROVAL OF CRITICAL QUALITY EDUCATOR SHORTAGES REPORT  
Madalyn Quinlan**

Ms. Quinlan presented the 2015 report to the Board and briefly reviewed the history of the program, how schools are determined to be impacted, and how subject areas are determined, and then requested the Board's approval. Ms. Quinlan answered questions from the Board

**Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the Superintendent's request for Approval the Critical Quality Educator Shortages Report for 2015-16. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

***Ms. Diane Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition gave public comment.***

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (Conference Call Meeting)**

Exiting Board Member – Last Meeting

Transportation Report

MACIE Update

*Annual School Food Services Report  
Assessment Update  
Federal Update  
Accreditation Report  
5 YCEP Process Update  
Educator Preparation Program Report*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Scottle.**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.**

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