

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
Conference Call Meeting
January 18, 2019

Friday January 18, 2019
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chair Schottle. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Ms. Sharon Carroll; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Mr. Scott Stearns; Ex Officio members: Ms. Siri Smillie, Governor Bullock's Office; Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen. Staff present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Guests present via conference phone: Ms. Jule Walker, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Donna Sorensen, Superintendent, MSDB; Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Mr. Kyle Moen, OPI; Ms. Patty Muir, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Ms. Susie Hedalen, OPI; Ms. Michelle Mitchell, OPI; Ms. Kara Flath, OPI; Mr. Jim Molloy; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Motion seconded by Ms. Sharon Carroll.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion
seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 1-6)**

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Dr. Darlene Schottle

Chair Schottle thanked Mr. Donovan for keeping the Board members updated on Legislative actions and noted that if any Board members are needed to attend any hearings to let the Legislative committee know. Chair Schottle asked that Ms. Anne Keith update the Board on her attendance at the Assessment Conference earlier in the week and Ms. Keith noted her presentation at the conference.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Pete Donovan

• **BPE Budget Analysis – Legislative Fiscal Division**

Mr. Donovan updated the Board on the Entrance meeting with the Legislative Audit team for the Board's upcoming Legislative Audit, the upcoming budget proposal from the Governor's office which will be presented to the legislature on January 29. The major change is the shift in legal expense funding from one time only to the base budget. Mr. Donovan answered Board member questions regarding the budget.

Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen discussed the upcoming testing window which will open in the coming weeks for Statewide Assessments to begin. The Superintendent welcomed Ms. Quinlan to the Board then reviewed the OPI budget, OPI's Legislative priorities for the session, taking note of the bills regarding school safety, student safety, student data privacy, proposed changes to the schedule for payment to schools, and noted the increase in graduation rates for 2018 including an increase for Native American graduates as well. Superintendent Arntzen fielded questions from board members. The Superintendent noted the Indian Education for All Caucus taking place in the Capitol Rotunda today and invited anyone to attend.

Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT
Angela McLean

No report.

Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT
Siri Smillie

Ms. Smillie thanked Ms. Carroll for her service and mentorship, and extended the Governor's appreciation as well, and welcomed Ms. Quinlan to the Board. Ms. Smillie thanked Board members for their participation in the Board of Education conference call to adopt the unified budget and expressed the Governor's hope for a face to face Board of Education meeting in the coming months. Ms. Smillie updated the Board on the Governor's Future Ready Cabinet meetings, a \$4.2 million grant awarded to the state for Early Childhood Education, and a brief review of the Governor's budget proposal regarding school funding and associated bills. Ms. Smillie answered Board member questions.

Item 6 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
Paris Becker

Ms. Becker was unable to connect to the call and emailed her report to the Board members.

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

Item 7 MSDB REPORT (ACTION)
Donna Sorensen

Ms. Donna Sorensen updated the Board on the MSDB, welcomed Ms. Quinlan to the Board, then highlighted a few items on her report, including Ms. Bremner's attendance at the Thanksgiving dinner in November. Also highlighted was Ms. Sorensen and Ms. Schmidt's recent meeting in Helena with the new state budget director, the Superintendent leave report, new hires, and upcoming events at the school. Ms. Sorensen reviewed the schools budget request noting that all long-range building requests were denied. Ms. Sorensen also updated the Board on the use of the MSDB pool, community use of the pool, policies in place, and coverage for liability and use of certified life guards when community partners are using the pool. Pool use is for regular scheduled classes and lessons right now and is not being opened for "open pool time" yet. Discussions have taken place with Risk Management and Tort Defense at the state. Ms. Bremner asked that the existing policies the school has in place be forwarded to Risk Management for their review.

- **Request Approval of Out of State Travel Requests**

Ms. Sorensen reviewed the MSDB out of state travel requests for the Board and asked for approval.

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Out of State Travel requests as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **MSDB Budget Analysis – Legislative Fiscal Division**
- **Request of Approval of Human Resources Employee Hires**

Ms. Sorensen reviewed the request for approval of new hires.

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner approved the new hires as presented in the January report. Motion seconded by Ms. Sharon Carroll.

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to accept resignations of: Derek Hale and Wendy Chadd Henry. Motion seconded by Ms. Sharon Carroll.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 8-11)**

**Item 8 TEACHER LICENSURE REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)
 Kyle Moen**

Mr. Moen presented the report on behalf of Ms. Thatcher, briefly reviewing the report.

**Item 9 INITIAL PRESENTATION OF BPE CASE #2018-11, REVOCATION REQUEST,
 JOHNSON (ACTION)
 Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services**

Mr. Rob Stutz reviewed the request from OPI to revoke the educator license of Mr. Johnson. This is the initial review for the Board and recommended the request be moved to a full hearing.

Ms. Lacey asked the procedural question regarding the fact that Mr. Johnson was an employee of the Great Falls Public Schools and is she required to recuse. Mr. Stutz noted that unless she has information outside of the provided information, no recusal is necessary.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to move BPE Case #2018-11 to a full hearing at the March meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Sharon Carroll.

Mr. Kyle Moen, Chief Legal Counsel, noted that on December 18, 2018 Mr. Johnson contacted the office asking for the paperwork to surrender his educator license and that paperwork has been mailed to him, but not returned.

Ms. Lacey asked that if the paperwork is received prior to the March meeting would there be a need for hearing. Mr. Stutz answered that OPI would request to recall the revocation request and report the surrender.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 10 INITIAL PRESENTATION OF BPE CASE #2018-12, REVOCATION REQUEST, OELKERS (ACTION)

Mr. Stutz noted that OPI filed a revocation request for Ms. Oeklers, and Ms. Oelkers responded to the notice via Mr. Molloy, an attorney. Mr. Stutz noted that the names of students listed in her response did not need to be removed as the individuals are adults, but the names should be protected from public information. Mr. Stutz reviewed the response materials provided by Ms. Oelkers and noted that Mr. Oelkers requested the matter not be moved to a hearing. Ms. Lacey called for any board members questions of Mr. Stutz. Mr. Stutz reviewed the Boards options: 1. Move to full hearing, 2. Dismiss the request, 3. Need more information and move to investigation.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to deny the request to move to a hearing in BPE case #2018-12. Motion seconded by Ms. Sharon Carroll.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 11 REQUEST APPROVAL OF NEW PROGRAM AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN: MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE SEEKING A TEACHING ENDORSEMENT IN AN ENDORSABLE AREA (ACTION)

Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Dr. Anne Eubank, MSU Bozeman

Dr. Peterson introduced Dr. Anne Eubanks from MSU Bozeman who reviewed the proposed program. Dr. Eubank discussed specific questions from the OPI Accreditation department regarding the program for the Board. Ms. Lacey thanked MSU for this proposal and for providing an alternative option for individuals to become teachers. Dr. Peterson thanked Ms. Lacey for her comments and requested approval of the program. Dr. Schottle also thanked MSU for the proposal and concurred with Ms. Lacey's comments.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the addition of a Master of Arts in Teaching for Individuals with a Bachelor's Degree Seeking a Teaching Endorsement in an Endorsable Area. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Dr. Eubank thanked the Board and everyone who worked on the proposal.

No additional comments. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ MACIE LIAISON – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 12)

**Item 12 MACIE REPORT (ACTION)
Michelle Mitchell**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner noted that MACIE is at the Capitol Rotunda for the Indian Education for All Caucus and their scheduled meeting. Ms. Susie Hedalen, OPI, noted she is on the call to present the item on behalf of MACIE. Ms. Hedalen noted the report is in the packet for Board members to refer and requested the appointment of the new member to the Council.

- **Request Approval of Appointment for Myrna Dumontier to MACIE
Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Myrna Dumontier to MACIE. Motion seconded by Ms. Sharon Carroll.**

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Scott Stearns (Item 13)**

Item 13 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Pete Donovan

Mr. Stearns reviewed the work of the committee to date and turned the item over to Mr. Donovan to speak specifically about pending bills. Mr. Donovan began by thanking OPI, the MT PEC members, specifically Dr. Miller and Ms. Burke for their partnership during the session and keeping the Board apprised of upcoming bills and issues. Mr. Donovan noted he has been at the Capitol for a couple hearings and speaking with Education partners and legislators. Mr. Donovan noted specific bills he has testified on in support of including: HB 61, SB92, then noted upcoming bills for which he will be attending hearings.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 14-15)**

Item 14 **FEDERAL UPDATE (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Susie Hedalen

Ms. Hedalen gave the Federal Update on behalf of OPI including the newly published report from the Commission on School Safety, a note that the Department of Education is not affected by the partial government shutdown, the school nutrition program is funded through March 2019 and that furloughed families are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch. OPI is currently disseminating information to schools on procedures for that new process. Ms. Hedalen updated the Board on the Federal Report card and that the 17-18 report card will be available in the spring of 2019. OPI cross walked the Report Card with the ESSA requirements and have made some changes to ensure all necessary data is covered.

Item 15 **TRANSPORTATION REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Kara Flath

Ms. Kara Flath reviewed the Transportation Report for the Board, highlighting several items including: increase in certified drivers, steady number of bus routes, decrease in total student rider numbers, but noted that is due to some changes in the way the data is collected that affected the total numbers. Ms. Flath also discussed the state reimbursement for bus routes noting that the Special Session in 2017 reduced the reimbursement for the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year, causing districts to make up the difference in their operational budgets. Ms. Flath noted that reduction continues for the 2018-2019 school year. Also noted were numbers of the new Type E buses, recently approved by the Board

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 16)**

Item 16 **ASSESSMENT UPDATE**
Ashley McGrath

• **ASSESSMENT REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)**

Ms. McGrath summarized the Assessment Conference held in Bozeman January 14-15, then reviewed the testing windows and preparation for the spring assessments, the National Indian Education Study, Multi State Solicitation process, the legislative request to allow the OPI to release ACT test data on behalf of Montana students, to institutions of higher learning for college application, and a review of the Peer Review Timeline. Ms. McGrath fielded Board member questions.

• **NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING TIMELINE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (ACTION)**

Ms. McGrath noted that the Assessment Committee met earlier in the week and that this will be an information item only, no action will take place at this time. The amount of information provided is enormous and the Board needs time to digest all the information. This item will be taken up at the March meeting for Action on the Timeline. Ms. Bremner brought up the issue that no Native American

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS March 14-15, 2019

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Accreditation Report

Annual School Food Services Report

MACIE Update

Initial Presentation of MSDB School Calendar

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN

Sharon moved to adjourn the meeting. Anne Keith seconded the motion.

No comment.

Chair Schottle thanked Ms. Carroll again for her service. Meeting adjourned.

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