

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

**September 13, 2019**  
**Montana State Capitol Building, Room 317**  
**Helena, MT**

**Friday September 13, 2019**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Schottle called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Balsam took roll call. The Chair welcomed guests to the meeting and read the Statement of Public Participation.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice-Chair; Mr. Scott Stearns; Ms. Anne Keith; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner via phone; Ms. Paris Becker, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor's Office; Ms. Angela McLean, Commissioner of Higher Education's Office. Staff present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Julie Balsam, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Donna Sorensen, Superintendent MSDB; Ms. Jennifer Smith, MACIE; Ms. Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Ms. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Mr. Ken Bailey, OPI; Ms. Patty Muir, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Ms. Julia Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC;

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.**  
**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan seconded the motion.**

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

**ADOPT AGENDA**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Anne Keith seconded the motion.**

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

\*\*\*\*\*Items are listed in the order in which they are presented\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Item 1                      CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)**  
**Dr. Darlene Schottle**

Chair Schottle noted it's "back to school" time and that she attended the NW MAAS meeting recently and everyone was excited to have returned to school. Dr. Schottle turned the Election of Officers to Mr.

Donovan to accept nominations. The Chair noted Board member Stearns will be at the meeting at approximately 11:00 am. Mr. Donovan asked for nominations for Chair.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to nominate Dr. Darlene Schottle for second term of Chair of the Board of Public Education. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

***No other nominations were made. Motion passed unanimously.***

Chair Schottle opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to nominate Ms. Tammy Lacey for a second term as Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.**

***No other nominations. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)  
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan discussed the Education Coalition of the States meeting that took place in July and noted the slides from that meeting are contained in the agenda packet for Board members to review. Mr. Donovan also discussed the Education Interim Committee that met earlier in the week and highlighted a student panel that discussed mental health issues and noted how impressed he was with the student panel. Mr. Donovan also mentioned the budget meeting he will have next week where attention will be brought to the increased legal fees and how to address that in the future. Mr. Donovan thanked Ms. Balsam for her work this week in preparation for the meeting, and thanked Mr. Stutz for his work assisting the Board with legal issues.

Mr. Stutz updated the Board on the status of the Oelkers case before the District Court. Mr. Stutz noted that although the Board is not a party in the lawsuit, the lawsuit does bring to question the process the Board uses in revocation requests. Mr. Stutz reviewed a recent scheduling conference which was held before the District Court Judge. Mr. Stutz answered Board questions. Chair Schottle thanked Mr. Donovan for his work.

**Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)  
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen**

Superintendent Arntzen discussed her attendance earlier in the week at the Board of Regents meeting, as well as the Education Interim Committee meeting and reports the OPI staff presented to the Committee. The Superintendent discussed the Youth Risk Behavior Survey taken by 95% of Montana middle and high school students. The Superintendent discussed trends in the report. The Superintendent congratulated the 2020 Montana Teacher of the Year, Ms. Linda Ross, from Baker. The Superintendent noted the addition of the Student Achievement Report, which will be a new report given by the OPI at each BPE meeting, and briefly discussed the close date of the public comment period for the ARM revisions to the Public Health Standards.

**Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)  
McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn discussed the Governor's "Back to School Stop" in partnership with the Education Superhighway, visiting schools as they returned to classes. Ms. Flynn highlighted improvements schools have made with funding from the Education Superhighway program. Also discussed was the presentation of the Labor Day Report at Helena College, noting an addition of 5,000 jobs in Montana in the last year, and wage growth of 3% across the state. The Preschool Development Grant was also discussed, and funding made available in the last session of \$350,000 to the tribes to assist in paying the HiSet cost for applicants. Ms. Flynn also discussed the importance of the upcoming census and the

funding the state receives based off the census. Ms. Flynn indicated that she received information from DPHHS before the meeting began listing different funding sources for schools to implement the upcoming rule changes. Ms. Flynn answered Board member questions.

**Item 6** **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)**  
**Paris Becker**

Ms. Becker noted that she served on the final selection committee for the Teacher of the Year and the difficulty of the decision due to the exceptional teachers nominated. Ms. Becker talked about serving on the Mental Health Board made up of student council members from across the state where they discussed stress and substance abuse as two contributing factors to student Mental health and how to help students. The State Student Council is beginning to plan the search for Ms. Becker's replacement as Student Representative to the Board. Ms. Lacey thanked Ms. Becker and the State Student Council for discussing student mental health and supporting students.

❖ **MSDB LIAISON – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Item 7)**

**Item 7** **MSDB REPORT – (ACTION)**  
**Donna Sorensen**

Chair Schottle introduced the item in Ms. Bremner's absence and called Ms. Sorensen, MSDB Superintendent to present her report to the Board, asking Ms. Sorensen to explain the Action items she has indicated in her report. Ms. Sorensen discussed activities since the new school year started, including student enrollment numbers, the meeting she attended at the North Dakota School for the Blind, and a meeting of other Superintendents of Schools for the Deaf and Blind from other states in Salt Lake City. Also noted are the ongoing contract negotiations for the Cottage Life Workers, Orientation week, which included safety training, a workshop on Google Classroom and working towards having that resource available for teachers, and an upcoming staff training on becoming a Trauma Informed School and Fostering Resilient Learners. Ms. Sorensen also reviewed Student Life Activities, Outreach, Business, roof repairs, and the Dining Hall Staff which will receive the Governor's Award for Excellence on September 16<sup>th</sup>, and other upcoming events at the school. Ms. Sorensen answered Board member questions. Chair Schottle requested a report that shows the numbers of how many students live on campus, how many off campus, how many outreach students, number of deaf, number of blind, number of students attending GFPS, for the November BPE meeting. Vice Chair Lacey also requested longitudinal data showing trends in enrollment.

- **Approve Human Resource Items**

Ms. Sorensen reviewed the Human Resource hiring's for the new school year and requested approval of the new hires.

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the human resource hirings at the MSDB for the following positions: Erin Faulkner, Student Life Behavioral Counselor, Bobbi Fritz, Cook, Stefani Brewer, Paraeducator, Andrew Kauffman, Paraeducator, Mary Calnan-Burns, Paraeducator, and Sydney Small, Paraeducator. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.**

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

- **Approve Web Policy**

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the MSDB Policy #4342, Web Accessibility and Plan for New Content. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

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

- **Approve Out-of-State Travel Requests**

Ms. Sorensen reviewed the requests for Out-of-State Travel for staff and students.

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the Out of State Travel requests for: Gallaudet University Academic Bowl Regional Competition, Assistive Technology Industry Association, and the School Administrators of Montana Fall Conference in Sacramento, CA; Spring Advocacy Conference, Washington DC, National Principals Conference, Washington DC. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

*Ms. Lacey thanked the MSDB Foundation for funding much of the travel.*

*No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

- ❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Item 8)**

**Item 8**

**MACIE REPORT – (ACTION)  
Jennifer Smith**

Superintendent Arntzen gave the update to the Board highlighting the schedule of events, and requesting the Board approve the nominations to fill vacant positions on the MACIE Council. The Superintendent answered clarification questions on the amended Constitution.

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the nominations to MACIE for: Jeremy McDonald and Jordann Lankford-Forster. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

*Ms. Lacey noted that she is familiar with both nominees and that Ms. Forster was a finalist for Teacher of the Year and feels they are both well qualified.*

*Ms. Quinlan also worked with Ms. Forster and is pleased with her nomination.*

*No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the revised MACIE Constitution and By-Laws as proposed. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Ms. Smith arrived and completed the MACIE report noting the biographies of the new MACIE members and how impressive they both are. Ms. Smith thanked the Superintendent and the Office of Public Instruction for their guidance. Ms. Smith also thanked the Board for approving the Constitution and By-Laws.

- ❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 9-12)**

**Item 9**

**FEDERAL REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)  
Jule Walker**

Ms. Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent, OPI, gave the Federal Report to the Board. Ms. Walker discussed Perkins V to address the Comprehensive and Local Needs Assessment which school districts must comply with and working with the Department of Labor to address industry needs. Also discussed was Federal Monitoring for Titles I, II, III, and V ongoing at the OPI, E grants tours which occurred in July





**Item 17 NOTICE OF SURRENDER, BPE CASE #2019-14, SPEIER  
Julia Swingley**

Mr. Stutz briefly reviewed the case. Ms. Kristine Thatcher, Educator Licensure Manager reviewed additional details of the surrender for the Board and noted the surrender has been reported to the national database. Mr. Stutz noted no action is necessary on this item.

\*\*\*\*\*TIME CERTAIN AT 1:00\*\*\*\*\*

**Item 13 HEARING OF BPE CASE #2019-09, JOHNSON  
Rob Stutz**

Ms. Lacey introduced the item and turned it over to Mr. Stutz for review. The educator, Ms. Johnson, was not present for the hearing. Ms. Julia Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel for the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) presented her case to the Board, calling Ms. Kristine Thatcher to testify. Ms. Thatcher was sworn in and reviewed the process used in granting Ms. Johnson a license, and how it was brought to the attention of the OPI that Ms. Johnson had pending action against her license in the State of Oregon. This new information is the cause for the OPI requesting the Class 5 license for Ms. Johnson be revoked by the Board. Board members asked questions of Ms. Thatcher regarding the application process for licensure and for clarification of the timeline. Mr. Stutz also asked Ms. Thatcher several clarifying questions regarding the process used to make the revocation request.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to revoke the educator license in BPE case #2019-09. Motion seconded by Mr. Scott Stearns.**

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

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**Item 18 FIVE-YEAR TREND DATA ON MONTANA'S PRAXIS KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENTS – (INFORMATION ONLY)  
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson reviewed the report on the PRAXIS test as requested by Chair Schottle at the July BPE Meeting. Areas highlighted in the report included content area scores, passing rates, how Montana scores against other states, and the multiple measures approached used in Montana, which is now being considered for use by other states across the country. Mr. Parman, Executive Director of MREA commented on the PRAXIS.

**❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 19)**

**Item 19 ASSESSMENT REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)  
Ashley McGrath**

Ms. McGrath gave the Assessment Report to the Board. Ms. McGrath discussed the Federal Waiver the OPI has applied for regarding the Science Assessment for Montana, and that the ACT Plus Writing has been approved by the OPI as the assessment for 11<sup>th</sup> grade for Science Assessment. Ms. McGrath answered Board member questions.

**❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Jesse Barnhart (Items 20-22)**

**Item 20 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE NOTICE OF ADOPTION FOR REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, ACCREDITATION PROCESS – (ACTION)  
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson reviewed the proposed revisions for the Board. Mr. Donovan noted that no public comment was received in writing, or at the public hearing. Dr. Peterson requested the Board approve the proposed revisions.



Variance to Standards Requests & Renewals  
Accreditation Report  
Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update (Odd Years)  
Annual Renewal Unit Providers List - C

**MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was given by Ms. Diane Burke, MREA, thanking the Board for all their work.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at

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*Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Action may be taken by the Board on any item listed on the agenda. Public comment is welcome on all items but time limits on public comment may be set at the Chair's discretion.*

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