

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

- **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.

**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 11th 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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