

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 17, 2020
Conference Call Meeting
Helena, MT
Call Information: 406-444-4647
1-833-505-4104
Password: 5226866#

Friday, January 17, 2020
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schottle called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Stockton took Roll Call. Chair Schottle read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present on the call included: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Mr. Scott Stearns; Ms. Anne Keith; Mr. Jesse Barhnhart. Ex Officio members: Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor's Office; Ms. Angela McLean, Commissioner of Higher Education Office. Staff present included: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Jule Walker, OPI; Ms. Julia Swingley, OPI; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Ms. Kara Flath, OPI; Ms. Donna Sorensen, MSDB Superintendent; Mr. Marco Ferro, MFPE; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC, University of Providence; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Scott Stearns moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

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

Item 1 **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**
Dr. Darlene Schottle

Chair Schottle thanked Mr. Stearns for his service on the Board and for the valuable input he has provided during his tenure. Mr. Stearns thanked the Board for their appreciation and noted he is honored for the opportunity to have served on the Board. Chair Schottle discussed work done between meetings in the office as well as the work of the Executive and MSDB Committee’s that has occurred since the November meeting.

Item 2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**
Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan thanked Chair Schottle for the work and the time that she puts in between meetings. Mr. Donovan discussed the Legislative Week that has been ongoing during the week and the meeting of the Education Interim Committee the prior day. Topics discussed at the meeting include: school funding, specifically Special Education issues, Pre-K, an update from the Montana Digital Academy, and a Recruitment and Retention Panel. Mr. Donovan also noted the upcoming case before the US Supreme Court, Espinoza vs. Montana Department of Revenue, case regarding funding for private schools. Ms. Diane Burke, Director of MQEC will be attending the hearing in Washington DC. Mr. Donovan thanked Ms. Burke, as well as Mr. Ferro and Mr. Parman who have worked on the case and have been following the case. Mr. Donovan answered Board member questions.

Item 3 **STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen gave her report to the Board which covered updated information on Graduation Rates, an Education Grant from MSU to help fill rural counseling positions, a Federal Funding update, DPHHS Rules update, as well as a discussion regarding Legislative Week. Superintendent Arntzen also highlighted the Montana Teacher of the Year, Linda Rost, who is also a finalist for National Teacher of the Year. The announcement will be made the end of February as to who the winner will be.

Item 4 **COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT**
Angela McLean

Ms. McLean thanked the Board staff for their work between meetings. Ms. McLean discussed a presentation from students from MSU regarding Music Education and a plan going forward to present Music Education in rural communities to encourage educators to teach in rural areas. Mr. Parman offered financial support from MREA to assist this program going forward. Ms. McLean thanked the support from the Education Partners on this ongoing program. Ms. McLean discussed the final report of the Recruitment and Retention Task Force and that she can update the Board with that report at the March meeting. Ms. McLean noted the iGraduate program in relation to the newly released graduation rates by the Superintendent. Ms. McLean discussed the completion of College Application Week last fall, and the current focus on FAFSA Completion and assisting families with that, as well as a brief update on the new Student Portal, which will also be an update at the March meeting.

Item 5 **GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT**
McCall Flynn

Ms. Flynn thanked everyone who was able to phone in to the Board of Education Meeting Conference Call in December, then briefly reviewed the Education Interim Committee meeting as well noting the presentation from Jamie Palagi at DPPHS on the STARS Preschool Program as well as Pre-K. Also highlighted was Dual Enrollment, which was discussed at the Board of Education meeting, the Breakfast After the Bell Program, and funding for the program.

Item 6 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**
Paris Becker

No report.

❖ **MACIE LIASION – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 7)**

Item 7 **MACIE REPORT- (ACTION)**
Jennifer Smith

Ms. Bremner opened the MACIE Report for the Board on behalf of Ms. Smith, noting the next MACIE meeting will be held March 11, 2020 in Helena. Superintendent Arntzen noted the slide presentation contained in the packet and requested the Board approve the nomination of Mr. Rodney Bird to MACIE. Ms. Bremner discussed the recent graduation rates in Indian Country and noted the success of the Breakfast After the Bell program in reservation schools and how much the communities appreciate the program.

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the nomination to MACIE of Mr. Rodney Bird. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 8-11)**

Item 8 **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT /FEDERAL UPDATE – (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Julie Murgel

Ms. Murgel gave the ESSA and Student Achievement Report to the Board which included assessment results discussing specific subgroups of Math, Special Needs, and ELA in both Smarter Balanced and ACT results. Ms. Murgel discussed other aspects of ESSA regarding Targeted and Comprehensive Schools. Ms. Murgel answered Board member questions.

Item 9 **TRANSPORTATION REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Kara Flath

Ms. Kara Flath and Ms. Donnell Rosenthal updated the Board with the annual Transportation Report including the number of certified drivers, miles traveled, ridership, and number of buses. Board members asked questions of Ms. Flath.

Item 8
Ms. Murgel came back on the line for the numbers requested by Ms. Quinlan regarding free and reduced lunch totals.

Item 10 **APPROVE NOTICE OF ADOPTION FOR REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS AND ANNUAL REPORTS – (ACTION)**
Sharyl Allen

Ms. Allen presented the revised rule changes for ARM Title 10, Chapter 54 and asked for Board member questions. No members had questions.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to Approve the Notice of Adoption for Revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 54, Deadlines for Applications and Annual Reports. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Jesse Barnhart (Items 15-17)**

Item 15 **UPDATE: VIRTUAL SITE VISIT OF THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM AT STONE CHILD COLLEGE, NOVEMBER 24-26, 2019 – (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Linda Peterson presented the review of the virtual site visit for the Educator Preparation Program at Stone Child College. Due to the blizzard at the end of September, the physical on-site visit was delayed, and the visit was done by a virtual site visit. Dr. Peterson reviewed the site visit for the Board and noted that a physical site visit will still be conducted in the future.

Item 16 **SITE VISIT SCHEDULE FOR MONTANA'S 10 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS – (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson reviewed the upcoming schedule for the Educator Preparation Program site visits.

Item 17 **UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE REQUEST FOR GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION – (INFORMATION ONLY)**
Linda Vrooman Peterson
Matthew Redinger, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Providence
Leslie Lott, Assistant Professor of Education, University of Providence

Dr. Peterson reviewed the request for the Good Cause Extension and turned the item over to the University of Providence staff for their presentation and reasons for the request for Good Cause Extension. The school is undergoing changes including reorganization and prioritization of courses. The school also discussed the teach out options which will be offered to students currently moving through the program. Dr. Peterson noted that the next steps will be for the item to return as an Action item before the Board for approval. Dr. Peterson and her staff will be working with the school in the interim until the March meeting when the item will be presented. Dr. Schottle thanked the school for their work on teaching out the current students so that they may continue their education.

❖ **MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Items 18-19)**

Item 18 **MSDB REPORT – (ACTION)**
Donna Sorensen

Ms. Sorensen gave the MSDB Report to the Board highlighting enrollment numbers at the school, residents living on campus, an update on the Deaf-Blind project and a presentation made to the students by a deaf-blind athlete, CBA Agreements, Policy Updates, reviewed recent positions filled, budget items, and then asked for approval on the Action items.

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

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the out of state travel requests for: CSUN Assistive Technology Conference, NASA ROADS Competition, Orientation to Texas Tech University's INVITE Grant, and Galludet University Academic Bowl National Competition. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve Human Resource Hirings

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Human Resource Hirings at the MSDB for: Jacqueline Whaely – PE Teacher, Shane Lawrence – ASL Interpreter. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve Statutory Pay Increases

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Statutory Pay Increases of \$.50 cents per hour per HB 175 signed by Governor Bullock, for MSDB employees in Pay Plan 61. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 19

ACTION ON MSDB SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

Dr. Darlene Schottle

Dr. Schottle announced for guests on the line that Superintendent Sorensen has submitted a letter of resignation and announced her hiring as the Superintendent at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and Blind. Due to this announcement, the Board will act on accepting the resignation, the Board will not take action on whether to extend or not extend her contract.

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to accept the resignation of Ms. Donna Sorensen as noted in her letter of resignation with an end date of February 28, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Scott Stearns.

Comments of appreciation from Ms. Bremner

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Schottle noted that the Executive Committee has met and will be determining an Interim Superintendent and working with State Human Resources to post the Superintendent Position and to assist the Board with the hiring process.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS March 12-13, 2020, Helena, MT

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Accreditation Report

Annual School Food Services Report

MACIE Update

Initial Presentation of MSDB School Calendar

Chair Schottle and Ms. Bremner thanked Mr. Stearns for his service. Mr. Stearns noted his appreciation and that he will miss everyone on the Board. Mr. Barnhart noted his enjoyment in serving with Mr. Stearns.

Public Comment from Ray Severie in Great Falls thanking Superintendent Sorensen for her service and asking when input regarding the search will be appropriate. Chair Schottle noted that a schedule of events will be distributed and that interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place in May at the MSDB.

ADJOURN

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Meeting Adjourned at 12:23 PM

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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.

The Board of Public Education will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate in the meeting. Individuals who require such accommodations should make requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible prior to the meeting start date. You may write to: Kris Stockton, PO Box 200601, Helena MT, 59620, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 444-0302.