

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

**Thursday November 7, 2019**  
**Montana State Capitol Building, Room 102**  
**Helena, MT**

**Thursday, November 7, 2019**  
**8:30AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Schottle called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. Ms. Stockton took roll call and Chair Schottle read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice-chair; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Ms. Anne Keith; Mr. Scott Stearns; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Paris Becker, Student Representative. Ex-Officio members: Ms. Angela McLean, Commissioner Christians Office; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor's Office; Superintendent Arntzen, OPI. Staff: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Ms. Jule Walker, OPI; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Ms. Susan Court; Representative Moffie Funk; Dr. Currie, Montana Digital Academy; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Ms. Jennifer Smith, MACIE; Mr. Scott Furois, OPI; Mr. Ken Bailey, OPI; Dr. Ann Eubanks, MSU; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Kris Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Julia Swingley, OPI.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mr. Scott Stearns moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**  
**Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

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

**ADOPT AGENDA**

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

***Ms. Lacey noted her appreciation of the estimated time frames for each item being listed on the agenda.***

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

**Item 1**                      **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 10 Minutes**  
**Dr. Darlene Schottle**

Dr. Schottle briefly discussed her recent attendance at the MCEL meeting in Billings.

- **Committee Assignments**

Chair Schottle noted no changes to the Committee Assignments will take place at this time. Since Board member Stearns will be going off the Board at the end of January, Committee assignments will take place once a new member is seated.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 15 Minutes**  
**Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan noted Chair Schottle's recent G.V. Erickson award and noted several of her accomplishments during her tenure as Superintendent of the Kalispell School District as well as her work on the Board of Public Education and with the School Administrators of Montana. Mr. Donovan also discussed the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Class 7 Licenses and briefly explained how this license originated in 1995 and the work done to get the license in place. A recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Class 7 license is scheduled to take place at the Joint meeting of the Board of Public Education and CSPAC in July 2020.

**Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – 15 Minutes**  
**State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen**

Chair Schottle thanked the Superintendent for the information she provides in the agenda packet. Superintendent Arntzen thanked the Board staff for their collaboration with the OPI in preparing the agenda. The Superintendent briefly discussed several items of interest including: Federal Grant monies, Assessment scores, Student Success work, new leadership in Student Support Services after the retirement of Mr. Podobnik and asked for any Board member questions. Chair Schottle noted the Striving Readers Grant and the possibility of an update on this grant to the Board at a future Board meeting. The Superintendent noted that March would be a good time for a report. Ms. Lacey inquired about the recent departure of Ms. Hedalen and the timeline for a replacement. The Superintendent noted that a search for her replacement is ongoing at this time.

Chair Schottle noted the arrival of Representative Moffie Funk and thanked her for her support.

**Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT - 15 Minutes**  
**Angela McLean**

Ms. McLean announced the completion of the Recruitment and Retention Task Force noting the report is being completed and that a future agenda item of this report would be appropriate. Ms. McLean noted that there have been more completers from Educator Preparation Programs than open teaching positions, with the exception of Tech Ed, Consumer Science, Music. Department of Labor Data backup that Montana Educator Preparation Providers are graduating more than enough students to fill teaching jobs, but the task is to drive those new teachers to the rural areas of state that desperately need teachers. Ms. McLean discussed some of the programs and processes being worked on to meet that need, including a new 2 + 2 programs between Blackfeet College and Little Big Horn. Ms. McLean noted that November 8 is First Generation Day which helps support First Generation college students and includes a new student portal to help grow Montana resident student access to college. Ms. Quinlan asked how the 2+2 Program works. Chair Schottle noted that Board member Quinlan is the Board representative on the MUS 2-year Commission called for by the Legislature and asked Ms. Quinlan for a brief review of their recent meeting.

**Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT - 15 Minutes**  
**McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn discussed her recent attendance at a conference of Governor's Education Advisors and a panel on Workforce Development which took place at the conference. Ms. Flynn noted work done in Montana and work being done across the country related to Workforce Development. Ms. Flynn also discussed her attendance at a Social and Emotional Development/Learning Conference and work being done in that area. The Preschool Development Grant has been submitted as well as the renewal grant,

with the renewal grant focusing on developing partnerships in communities for more access to childcare in rural communities.

- **Board of Education Meeting Update**

Ms. Flynn discussed the upcoming Board of Education meeting which will be held at the end of the Board of Regents meeting on November 22 on the MSU Campus. Ms. Flynn reviewed the draft agenda for the meeting for members and noted that she would like a head count of who might be on the phone. The meeting will be approximately 90 minutes and the Governor will chair the meeting.

**Item 6** **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT - 15 Minutes**  
**Paris Becker**

Ms. Becker noted her surprise at the reporting of the high number of Dual Enrollment classes noting that she is currently taking 2 classes and that it is very popular at Fairfield HS. Ms. Becker discussed the recent State Student Council meeting earlier in the week and the ongoing search for her replacement as the student representative to the Board and the large number of people interested in the position so far. Board members thanked Ms. Becker for her work, and Chair Schottle asked where she takes her Dual Enrollment classes. Ms. Becker noted she takes her classes online, but some students do travel to the Great Falls College Campus for their classes. Ms. McLean noted that the Dual Enrollment division at OCHE is now fully staffed and that if the Board would like a report on Dual Enrollment, she would be happy to help facilitate that.

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

**Item 7** **MACIE REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY) – 20 minutes**  
**Jennifer Smith**

Ms. Bremner noted the MACIE meeting which was held the previous day and thanked Superintendent Arntzen for her report at the meeting. Ms. Bremner turned the item over to Ms. Jennifer Smith, Chair of MACIE, who also thanked the Superintendent for her report, for Mr. Donovan for his attendance, and to Ms. Julie Murgel at OPI for her report on ESSA. Ms. Smith then reviewed some of the information shared and items presented at the MACIE meeting and upcoming work and events planned for 2020. Mr. Donovan noted that a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be planned for the July 2020 Joint meeting of the Board and CSPAC. Ms. Bremner also noted a request from a member of the public if Class 7 teachers could be hired so that Native Languages could also be offered in schools along with Foreign Languages. Ms. Quinlan asked how MACIE is working with the Content Standards updates in integrating Indian Education for All, and Ms. Smith explained how that work is being done with the Content Standards department at OPI.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 8-12)**

**Item 8** **FEDERAL UPDATE & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY) - 15 Minutes**  
**Julie Murgel**

Ms. Julie Murgel, ESSA Director at OPI, presented the Federal Update and Student Achievement Report to the Board noting that the OPI is currently taking public comment on two revisions to the state ESSA Plan, 1) the assessment for English Language Learners and 2) Title IV part A as to how the state uses funds for this area and how the funds are allocated. The change is needed due to a revision to how the funds come to the state and the minimum amount of funding allowed. Ms. Murgel noted that the amendments are technical and are open for feedback until November 18, 2019. Ms. Murgel reviewed work being done to assist Targeted and Comprehensive Schools and pointed the Board members to the agenda packet for data on the Targeted and Comprehensive Schools. Ms. Murgel answered Board member questions. Chair Schottle thanked Ms. Murgel for the materials provided in the packet. Ms. McLean asked if the Targeted and Comprehensive Schools list has been compared to the list of schools on the Quality Educator Shortage List. Ms. Murgel noted that is something they have been looking at as

well as the ineffective teacher list to see if those teachers are serving in the shortage areas to see if there are areas that need to be addressed amongst those issues. Ms. Murgel also noted that Professional Development is also an area being looked at as to how the OPI can be supportive for these areas.

**Item 9 MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY) – 20**

*Minutes*

**Bob Currie**

Dr. Currie presented the Montana Digital Academy Report to the Board noting that this is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montana Digital Academy and briefly reviewed the implementation of the program and how it has grown over the past 10 years. Dr. Currie noted that over 10,000 credit recovery courses have been completed in those 10 years. Dr. Currie reviewed a new program within the Digital Academy of Individualized Pathway Courses and covered different scenarios of why students would need to use the Digital Academy and this new program, what the course structure is, costs, curriculum, how teachers are hired, and how teachers work with the students. Dr. Currie answered Board member questions.

**Item 10 REQUEST APPROVAL OF QUALITY EDUCATOR SHORTAGE AREA REPORT (ACTION) – 15 Minutes**

**Scott Furois, Ken Bailey**

Mr. Ken Bailey, Mr. Scott Furois, and Ms. Danielle Murphy presented the Quality Educator Shortage Area Report. Mr. Bailey noted the statute required for the Board to approve and adopt this report annually. Once the report is approved OPI publishes the report on its GEMS website. Additionally, this year the OPI is asking for approval to revise the report, due to the new Quality Educator Loan Repayment Program approved by the 2019 Legislature. Mr. Bailey explained how the data is gathered and used to compile the report and briefly reviewed the report. Mr. Bailey answered Board member questions. Mr. Bailey noted that at the September meeting he presented the new Emergency Designation of Critical Quality Educator Shortage Area and that he has received 5 applications, 1 of which was approved after this report went to print.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey move to approve the Critical Quality Educator Shortage Area Report and publish on the GEMS Website and for the revisions to the report by February 1, 2020. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

***Public comment from Mr. Dennis Parman who thanked the OPI staff for assembling the report and noted that the change in legislation allows school districts to assist educators in student loan repayment and also allows school districts to add up to \$5,000 for the teacher as well.***

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

**Item 11 TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING/ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY ACT ITEMS:**

- 1) REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE NOTICE OF ADOPTION FOR REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS (ACTION) – 10 Minutes**

**Sharyl Allen**

Ms. Allen reviewed the request briefly for the Board.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Notice of Adoption for the Revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 54, Deadlines for Applications. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

***Public Comment from Mr. Parman thanking the Board and the OPI for their work on implementing this per new legislation.***

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

2) **REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS AND ANNUAL REPORTS (ACTION) – 10 Minutes**  
**Sharyl Allen**

Ms. Allen reviewed the proposal for the Board and answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Notice of Proposed Amendment for Revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 54, Deadlines for application with amendments to include the codified statutes in the proposal. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

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

3) **QUALIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING GRANT (ACTION) -15 Minutes**  
**Sharyl Allen**

Ms. Allen distributed the list of applicants that need to be qualified, explained the application process, and answered Board member questions before requesting the Board qualify the list of applications presented.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the qualification of applications received for Transformational Learning Grant aid. Seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

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

Ms. Allen thanked the Board for their assistance in working through uncharted waters.

**Item 12                                    YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 Minutes**  
**Susan Court**

Ms. Court presented the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report (YRBS) completed in February 2019 to the Board reviewing the report for the Board including trend lines displaying an increase or decrease in a certain behavior. Ms. Court reviewed how the report is laid out and answered Board member questions.

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

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 13-19)**

**Item 13                                    HEARING OF BPE CASE #2019-10, BLOCK (ACTION) - 20 Minutes**  
**Rob Stutz**

Ms. Lacey opened the hearing and turned the item over to Mr. Stutz, Agency Legal Services, and turned the hearing to Ms. Julia Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel for OPI. Ms. Swingley noted she does not have any witnesses, only 1 exhibit of a Judgement and Sentencing Order for Ms. Block. Ms. Swingley reviewed the document, and reviewed the educator's employment and licensure history, and the reasons for the Superintendent's recommendation for revocation. Mr. Stutz noted that Ms. Block's license expired on June 30, 2019 and asked for the position of the OPI in requesting a revocation of a license that has expired. Ms. Swingley noted that without the revocation, nothing is reported nationally, and the educator could obtain licensure in another state. Board members asked questions of Ms. Swingley.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to revoke the Class 2 Standard Teaching License of Nora Block. Seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

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

**Item 14**                            **HEARING OF BPE CASE #2019-12, KANVICK (ACTION) – 20 Minutes**  
**Rob Stutz**

Mr. Stutz swore in the witness for OPI, Michelle Smith, and turned the item over to Ms. Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel for OPI. Ms. Swingley reviewed the educators license credentials and employment history. Ms. Swingley introduced Ms. Smith who reviewed her background. Ms. Smith investigated the allegations against Mr. Kanvick on behalf of the school district. Ms. Smith reviewed the process she followed in the investigation once she was brought on board the case beginning with interviewing witnesses and determining a final conclusion.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to revoke the Class 4 teaching license of Mr. Glen Kanvick. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

**Questions from Ms. Bremner.**

**No further questions. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 15**                            **NOTICE OF SURRENDER OF BPE CASE #2019-01 (INFORMATION ONLY) –**  
**10 Minutes**  
**Julia Swingley**

Ms. Swingley notified the Board of the surrender.

**Item 16**                            **NOTICE OF SURRENDER OF BPE CASE #2019-13 (INFORMATION ONLY) –**  
**10 Minutes**  
**Julia Swingley**

Ms. Swingley notified the Board of the surrender.

**Item 17**                            **NOTICE OF SURRENDER OF BPE CASE #2019-15 (INFORMATION ONLY) –**  
**10 Minutes**  
**Julia Swingley**

Ms. Swingley notified the Board of the surrender.

**Item 18**                            **NOTICE OF SURRENDER OF BPE CASE #2019-16 (INFORMATION ONLY) –**  
**10 Minutes**  
**Julia Swingley**

Ms. Swingley notified the Board of the surrender.

**Item 19**                            **LEGAL UPDATE (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 minutes**  
**Rob Stutz**

Mr. Stutz updated the Board on the Oelkers Case and the latest court proceedings. The Board will not be filing an amicus brief. Due to the thoroughness of the briefs filed by the parties, it is not necessary to file the amicus brief.

**❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 20)**

**Item 20**                            **ASSESSMENT REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 minutes**  
**Ashley McGrath**

Ms. McGrath reviewed the Assessment Report for the Board discussing the Peer Review Plan, updates to MontCAS, Smarter Balanced, MSAA, WIDA, Science Assessment, and alternate science. Ms. McGrath reviewed the January 2020 Assessment Conference, and then reviewed the NAEP Assessments.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Jesse Barnhart (Items 21-22)**

**Item 21                           CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS (CSIP) AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, ACCREDITATION, AND MASTER SCHEDULE (TEAMS) UPDATE ON SCHOOLS IN THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS (INFORMATION ONLY)**

**Patty Muir – 15 Minutes**

Ms. Patty Muir distributed an updated report as of the morning of November 7, 2019 and reviewed the plan going forward for assisting these schools in their Continuous School Improvement Plans (CSIP).

**Item 22                           INTENT TO ACCREDIT BILLINGS CATHOLIC K-8 ELEMENTARY (INFORMATION ONLY)**

**Patty Muir – 15 Minutes**

Ms. Muir noted the correct name is St. Francis Elementary School. OPI Accreditation visited the school and the leadership team in October and heard from the leadership regarding the work they are doing to meet the Chapter 55 Accreditation Standards set by the Board. Once the school's documentation is together, the OPI will assemble an internal team to review the documentation and conduct a site visit. A timeline at this point is unpredictable but Ms. Muir noted she is hopeful that by the January BPE meeting she will have a better time frame.

❖ **MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Items 23-24)**

**Item 23                           MSDB REPORT (ACTION) – 20 Minutes**

**Donna Sorensen**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner turned the item over to Superintendent Sorensen to give the report to the Board. Ms. Sorensen reviewed a report on a breakdown of student numbers requested at the September meeting, then noted position openings, referrals the school is working on, updates on the Student Life Program, including a trip to a Griz football game, and noted the scheduled three formal dinners all Board members are invited to attend. The Prodigy machines are still being collected and distributed to the students. A total of 100 machines were purchased and are being set up and distributed to students. Ms. Sorensen noted the snowstorm in September caused some trees to come down and do some damage on the campus that has had to be repaired.

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

**Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Out of State Travel requests for: Conference for Exceptional Children & Expo; NWEA Accessibility Summit; CEASD Education & Advocacy Summit; Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference; Flying Hands ASL Poetry Competition; Innovative School Summit IV Outreach Forum, California Transcribers & Educators for the Blind & Visually Impaired; CEASD Conference , Senior Trip. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

***Ms. Lacey thanked the MSDB Foundation for their support in funding the travel. Chair Schottle concurred.***

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

• **Approve Human Resource Hirings**

**Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the hiring of Amanda Travis, Cottage Life Attendant. Seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Diane Burke, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition, spoke in support of the pilot program discussed by Dr. Bob Currie of the Montana Digital Academy in the morning session of the meeting. Ms. Burke encourages the program and that it continues.

Closed session at 3:34 PM

\*\*\*\*\*EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED\*\*\*\*\*

### **Item 24 MSDB SUPERINTENDENT ANNUAL EVALUATION**

**Dr. Darlene Schottle**

\*\*\*\*\*EXECUTIVE SESSION – OPEN\*\*\*\*\*

Open session at 4:30 PM

**Mr. Scott Stearns moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS January 19, 2020 – Conference Call Meeting**

Exiting Board Member – Last Meeting and Recognition

MSDB Superintendent Contract Extension

*Transportation Report*

*MACIE Update*

*Assessment Update*

*Federal Update*

*Accreditation Report*

*Teacher Licensure Report*

## **ADJOURN**

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