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

**March 12, 2021**
**Zoom Meeting**

**Friday March 12, 2021**
**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. The Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Mary Heller; Ms. Susie Hedalen; Ms. Paige LePard, Student Representative. Ex-Officio members: Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Mr. Glen Oppel, Governor's Office; Superintendent Arntzen, OPI. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests: Ms. Nancy Hall, Office of Budget and Program Planning; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Ms. Jessie Counts, OPI; Ms. Christine Emerson, OPI; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, MSDB; Mr. Nathan Miller, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Ms. Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Kristal Smith, OPI; Ms. Donna Schmit, MSDB; Mr. Jim Kelly, MSDB; Ms. Paula Mix, MSDB; Mr. Jacob Barto, OPI; Mr. Bob Currie; Montana Digital Academy; Ms. Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Services; Dr. Brock Tessman, OCHE; Mr. Jason Nieffer, MTDA; Ms. Melissa Romano, Helena; Ms. Diane Fladmo, MFPE; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Ms. Kim Scofield; Ms. Yvette Smail, MSDB; Ms. Jule Walker, MTSBA; Ms. Chris Noel; Mr. Cameron Evans, Missoulian.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

***Ms. Tammy Lacey 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 approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.***

***Request from Mr. Nathan Miller to switch items 16 and 17.***

***Ms. Tammy Lacey amended the motion to approve the agenda and to switch Items 16 and 17. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.***

***Motion passed unanimously.***

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

The Chair introduced new Board members Ms. Susie Hedalen, Ms. Mary Heller, and Ms. Jane Hamman. The new members introduced themselves to the Board and current Board members also made introductions. The Chair reviewed Robert's Rules of Order and procedural items for meetings. The Chair reviewed the list of BPE Committees, the responsibilities of each committee, and asked new Board members to consider on which committees they would be interested in serving.

**Item 2** **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (ACTION)** - *15 Minutes*
**McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn welcomed the new members and reviewed the Board's constitutional authority and responsibilities for new members. Ms. Flynn reviewed Board activities and bills the office is tracking, has supported, opposed, or been an informational witness. Ms. Flynn reviewed the appointment request to the Montana Digital Academy Board for Mr. Luke Muszkiewicz. Dr. Bob Currie, Executive Director of the Montana Digital Academy gave background on the appointee and general information on the makeup of the Board of Directors of the Digital Academy. Dr. Currie noted that the Board of Public Education approves three of the members of the Board of Directors.

***Ms. Madaly Quinlan moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Luke Muszkiewicz to the Montana Digital Academy Board. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

***Ms. Quinlan noted that she knows Mr. Muszkeivcz through his work with the Helena School Board and is a great appointment.***

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

**Item 3** **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – *15 Minutes*
**Deputy State Superintendent Sharyl Allen**

Ms. Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, gave the Superintendent's report on behalf of Superintendent Arntzen. Ms. Allen highlighted areas of the Superintendents report in the Agenda Packet, including the ESSR3 funds, ongoing distribution of the ESSR2 funds in conjunction with the Legislature, EANS – the nonpublic dollars given to the OPI by the Governor's office and how distribution of those funds will be determined. The OPI continues to work with the federal government on how to maximize flexibility for school districts to use the funds. Ms. Allen answered board member questions regarding the ESSR funds, distribution, and federal requirements for fund allocation.

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

Ms. McLean welcomed the new Board members and gave the update from the Commissioner's Office and their role with the Board and in public education in Montana. Ms. McLean reviewed MUS initiatives including tuition freeze; Montana Ten Program; and other campus-based initiatives helping students succeed. Ms. McLean reviewed how the campuses and OCHE are working with OPI in administering the ACT for high school juniors and for seniors who were unable to test spring 2020 due to Covid; ongoing work with OPI for the iGraduate Initiative; FAFSA Completion Week April 16-20; Decision Day Week Event for students to announce their plans for college and/or where they will be attending May 3-7. Ms. McLean updated the Board on the Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force that wrapped up in 2019, which has now morphed into a Steering Committee. 3 subcommittees were created, and that work has been

finalized and work is now being done on "what are we doing to Grow Your Own"? Data shows that enough students are completing to meet demand and work now needs to be done on how to keep students and the Commissioner's Office will be working with the Educator Preparation Programs. Ms. McLean answered Board member questions.

**Item 5** **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT** - *15 Minutes*
**Glen Oppel**

No report.

**Item 6** **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT** – *15 Minutes*
**Paige Lepard**

No report.

- **MSDB LIAISON – Darlene Schottle (Item 7)**

**Item 7** **MSDB REPORT – (ACTION)** – *20 Minutes*
**Paul Furthmyre**

Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the role of the MSDB in Montana and the students that they serve across the State. Mr. Furthmyre discussed how students are enrolled at the MSDB, either locally, on campus, or through the schools Outreach program to provide students the services that they need to succeed in school. Mr. Furthmyre discussed the role of the MSDB Foundation in supporting the school and student activities and answered Board member questions. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the First Reading of the 2021-2022 School Calendar noting that Mr. Kelly works with the Great Falls Public School to ensure the MSDB calendar aligns with their calendar. The calendar will be up for Board approval in May. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the Personnel Actions and Out of State Travel Requests before asking for approval.

***Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Personnel actions at the MSDB for: Mr. Bently McCullough, Substitute Para; Ms. Darian McEwen, Substitute Para; Ms. Savannah Smith, Substitute Para/substitute Cottage attendant. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.***

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

***Ms. Lacey discussed the laws regarding non-renewal of a non-tenure teacher for the Board.***

***Ms. Tamy Lacey moved to approve the non-renewal of non-tenure teacher without cause Ms. Tabitha Stoltz, VI Teacher. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan***

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

***Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the Out of State Travel Requests for: Senior trip to Salt Lake City May 20-26, 2021; Senior Trip to Hayden Idaho, April 25-30, 2021; Trip to Washington State School for the Deaf April 18-21, 2021 for staff training on the new MSDB Transition Program. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

***Question from Ms. Lacey if the MSDB Foundation is funding the travel. Mr. Furthmyre noted that the Senior Class raised some funds and the Foundation picked up the remaining costs. The MSDB Professional Development funding is paying for the costs of the Washington trip.***

***Ms. Quinlan asked for clarification that if health risks arise due to the pandemic would these trips be postponed or cancelled, and Mr. Furthmyre noted that is the case and all groups have been advised that delays or cancellations may occur.***

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

**Item 8** **ACTION ON MSDB SUPERINTENDENT 2021-2022 CONTRACT – (ACTION)** - *15 Minutes*
**Dr. Darlene Schottle**

Chair Schottle reviewed for the new members and for the Board that this is an interim contract for the next year, and that due to Covid, the search for a new Superintendent for the MSDB in 2020 had to be put on hold, and Mr. Furthmyre was offered the interim position for 2022-2021. That contract is being extended for the next year, pending a new search in the Fall of 2021.

***Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the 2021-2022 Interim Contract for the MSDB Superintendent, Paul Furthmyre. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

***Mr. Furthmyre thanked the Board for his request of the Board to hold a new search for the Superintendent for which he intends to apply.***

***Ms. Lacey thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his tremendous work and service at the MSDB.***

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 9-10)**

**Item 9** **ANNUAL SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY)** – *15 Minutes*
**Christine Emerson**

Ms. Christine Emerson reviewed the School Food Services Report for the Board discussing changes and revisions to programs due to Covid and how schools adapted while still serving students. Ms. Emerson answered Board member questions. Ms. Lacey thanked Ms. Emerson for her report. Ms. McLean noted the importance of the report and thanked the School Nutrition team for their work in the past year.

**Item 10** **QUALIFY TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING GRANT FOR SUPERIOR SCHOOL – (ACTION)** *-15 Minutes*
**Kristal Smith**

Ms. Smith presented this item to the Board noting that the school submitted all their paperwork timely and due to an unforeseen circumstance at the OPI the school was left off the initial list of qualified districts the Board approved at the January meeting. Ms. Smith reviewed the Transformational Learning Grant for the new Board members information.

***Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to qualify Superior K-12 School District's application for fiscal year 2022. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.***

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

**Item 11** **TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY – (INFORMATION ONLY)** – *15 Minutes*
**Kristal Smith**

Ms. Smith presented the Annual Report Summary for the Transformational Learning Grant for 2020-2021 to the Board. The Board is required to present Annual Reports to the Education Interim Committee in even numbered years, but Ms. Smith wanted to present to the Board the summaries for each year. This summary will be kept for a presentation to the Education Interim Committee in 2022. Ms. Smith answered Board member questions.

**Item 12** **ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY – (INFORMATION ONLY)** – *15 Minutes*
**Kristal Smith**

Ms. Smith reviewed the Advanced Opportunity Grant for the new Board members and then presented the Annual Report Summary to the Board. As with the Transformational Learning Grant Annual Reports, the Board will be presenting the information to the Education Interim Committee in 2022. Chair Schottle thanked Ms. Smith for the summary and bullet points that review the report for the Board.

- **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 13-15)**

**Item 14** **CHAPTER 57 REVISIONS UPDATE – (INFORMATION ONLY)** – *15 Minutes*
**Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Murgel discussed the working group reviewing Chapter 57 and noted that Board member Lacey is on this review group. The OPI contracted with Ed Northwest to create a Licensure Reciprocity report and is also working with the CTE group and Licensure group at the OPI to discuss and review issues that arise in the Licensure process. Applicants in the pipeline who have incomplete applications were surveyed to learn what issues they are experiencing in being unable to complete their application for licensure. Dr. Murgel reviewed the findings from these surveys and shared the information with the Board. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions.

**Item 15** **CHAPTER 58 REVISIONS UPDATE – (INFORMATION ONLY)** – *15 Minutes*
**Jessie Counts**

Ms. Jessie Counts and Dr. Linda Peterson presented the update on the work of the Chapter 58 revisions to the Board. Dr. Peterson discussed the CAEP Revision process that looked for redundancies and duplications that make it easier for Education Preparation Providers reviewers to review programs. Dr. Peterson reviewed the changes that were made to the standards.

**********TIME CERTAIN @1:00pm**********

- **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 13-15)**

**Item 13** **HEARING OF APPEAL OF LICENSURE DENIAL ON BPE CASE #2021-01, HALL-REAGAN – (ACTION)** *30 Minutes*
**Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services**

Ms. Lacey opened the item and turned it over to Ms. Katherine Orr, Agency Legal services to review the merits of the case. The Superintendent of Public Instruction has made a request to the Board to grant Ms. Hall-Reagan a Class 3 Administrative License under the Unusual Case Request rule ARM 10.57.109. Initially the application for licensure was denied by the OPI and the educator appealed the denial. Upon reconsideration, the OPI decided to make a request for an Unusual Case Request. Ms. Hall-Reagan reviewed her background for the Board and answered Board member questions.

***Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to deny a Class 3 Administrative License under ARM 10.57.109, Unusual Cases, to Tammy Hall-Reagan, BPE Case #2021-01. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.***

***Comments from Chair Schottle that given that Chapter 57 is in revision and that a path to licensure for school counselors is being worked on that is why it is being denied.***

***Ms. Lacey noted that it haunts her that Ms. Hall-Reagan feels that she has a degree she cannot use, and that problem is being worked on and will hopefully be resolved so that she can use her degree.***
***Ms. Heller echoed the previous comments and noted that she should not give up and that the problem will be addressed.***

***Ms. Hall-Reagan noted that she emailed her contract as an FYI.***

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

***Chair Schottle noted that she has the support of the Board and that hopefully this issue will be resolved in the Licensure revisions in the future.***

Ms. Lacey reviewed for the full Board that a meeting was held with the Licensure Committee and OPI to smooth out the process for OPI requesting an Unusual Case request to the Board so that in the future this process will be smoother and less cumbersome. The OPI will no longer have to issue a denial for the educator to appeal, the OPI can move forward with the Unusual Case request and the denial is implied in that Unusual Case request.

- **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Item 16-17)**

**Item 17** **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 ACCREDITATION STATUS OF ALL SCHOOLS – (ACTION) –** *15 Minutes*
**Nathan Miller**

Ms. Quinlan noted that at the beginning of the meeting the order of items 16 and 17 were reversed. Ms. Quinlan discussed that she met with Deputy Superintendent Allen and Mr. Miller to review these items and that discussion was very appreciated. Mr. Miller shared the full Accreditation Report with the Board and gave a brief overview of the Accreditation process for the new Board members. Mr. Miller reviewed the report with the Board members noting changes in the report from last year, mostly due to Covid, and maintaining school accreditation status due to the pandemic.

***Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the 2020-2021 Accreditation Status of All Schools as recommended by the State Superintendent. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

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

**Item 16** **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 REPORT OF SCHOOLS TO EXIT INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE; RECOMMEND MAINTAINING CURRENT STATUS FOR SCHOOLS IN STEP 1, STEP 2, AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE – (ACTION) -** *15 Minutes*
**Nathan Miller**

Mr. Miller reviewed the Intensive Assistance process for the new Board members and then reviewed the report noting schools that are maintaining their status and maintaining their ongoing assistance status as well.

***Ms. Madaly Quinlan moved to approve Superintendent Arntzen's request to Exit 14 schools from Intensive Assistance. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.***

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

***Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve Superintendent Arntzen's request to maintain status for schools in Step 1, Step 2, or Ongoing Assistance of Intensive Assistance per ARM 10.55.605. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

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

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 18)**

**Item 18** **ASSESSMENT REPORT - (INFORMATION ONLY)** – *15 Minutes*
**Ashley McGrath**

Ms. McGrath gave the Assessment report for the Board, providing additional information that has come out since the Assessment report was created. Ms. McGrath highlighted the effects of Covid on Assessment at both the Federal and State level and how tests have been affected. Ms. McGrath answered Board member questions.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS May 13-14, 2021**

CSPAC Appointments
Student Representative Last Meeting & Recognition
*Approve K-12 Schools Payment Schedule Assessment Update*
*Accreditation Report*
*Content Standards Revisions Update*
*Variance to Standards Requests & Renewals*
*Federal Update*
MACIE *Update*
Approve MSDB School Calendar
Presentation on Seal of Biliteracy
**Executive Director Performance Evaluation**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

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**ADJOURN** **meeting adjourned at 2:**

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