



# Board of Public Education

## BOARD MEMBERS

### APPOINTED MEMBERS:

Tim Tharp, Chair  
Savage

Ron Slinger, Vice Chair  
Miles City

Julia Maxwell  
Marion

Renee Rasmussen  
Clancy

Lisa Schmidt  
Conrad

Jane Lee Hamman  
Clancy

Madalyn Quinlan  
Helena

Gavin Mow, Student Rep.  
Helena

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Clayton Christian,  
Commissioner of  
Higher Education

Susie Hedalen,  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

Greg Gianforte,  
Governor

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

McCall Flynn

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature authorized the establishment of public charter schools via HB 549 (2023) under the general supervision of the Montana Board of Public Education (Board); and

WHEREAS, the Board is responsible for evaluating charter proposals, and approving and denying proposals that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices; and

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed, interviewed, and allowed public comment on each authorized public charter application; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana Board of Public Education denies the following public charter schools for the following reasons:

**Yellowstone Experience School (YES):** The Board denied this proposal based on the lack of evidence of a high-quality school governance and business operations proposal, as well as lack of evidence that the public charter school provided clear and convincing proof of the likelihood of success and that they could open and operate a successful public charter school.

**Lion's Path Academy Charter School:** The Board denied this proposal based on the lack of evidence of a high-quality academic program proposal.

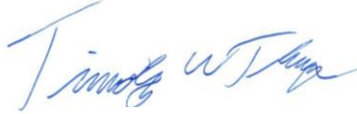
**Laurel Virtual Academy:** The Board denied this proposal based on the lack of evidence of community support and need, as well as lack of evidence to that the public charter school provided clear and convincing proof of the likelihood of success and that they could open and operate a successful public charter school.

**Mission Career Forward Charter Academy:** The Board denied this proposal based on the lack of evidence of a high-quality academic program proposal, as well as lack of evidence to that the public charter school provided clear and convincing proof of the likelihood of success and that they could open and operate a successful public charter school.

**SOAR Academy:** The Board denied this proposal based on the lack of evidence that the proposed public charter school met the statutory requirements to provide clear and convincing proof of the likelihood of success.

**Liberty Elementary Charter:** The Board denied this proposal based on the lack of evidence that the proposed public charter school met the statutory requirements, specifically in reference to offsite instructional settings and remote instruction.

RESOLVED BY THE MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ON  
JANUARY 24, 2025.



Dr. Tim Tharp  
Chairperson  
Board of Public Education