BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING AGENDA

November 18-20, 2026
Alumni Legacy Lounge, Strand Union Building
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT

❖ **BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND MONTANA COUNCIL OF DEANS OF EDUCATION LUNCH AND DISCUSSION**

12:00 PM **Great Room, MSU Alumni Foundation Building**
1501 S. 11th Ave., Bozeman, MT

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Alumni Legacy Lounge, Strand Union Building

CONVENE AT 2:30PM

CALL TO ORDER

A. **Pledge of Allegiance**
B. **Roll Call**
C. **Statement of Public Participation**
D. **Welcome Visitors**

PUBLIC COMMENT

This time will be provided for public comment on items not listed on the agenda. This meeting is open to the public both in person and electronically. For those wishing to give virtual public comment, please contact bpe@mt.gov to request the Zoom link for the meeting. Members of the public who have joined virtually on Zoom may "raise their hand" at the appropriate time to participate after being recognized by the Board Chair. Members of the public who wish to share written public comment with the Board members must submit written public comment to the Executive Director at bpe@mt.gov no later than two (2) business days before the start of the meeting. Any written public comment received after this deadline will be shared with the Board members after the meeting. All written public comment will be included as part of the official public record.

Action may be taken on any item listed on the Board agenda. Per §2-3-103, MCA, the Board encourages public comment on any item prior to Board final action.

CONSENT AGENDA – *page #11*
(*Items may be pulled from Consent Agenda upon request*)

A. **September 24-25, 2026 Meeting Minutes, October 22, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, and October 30, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes**
B. **Financials**

ADOPT AGENDA

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-6)**

Item 1 **CHAIRPERSON REPORT** – *15 Minutes, page #27*
Dr. Tim Tharp
- **Montana Cognia Advisory Committee Appointment**
- **NASBE Report**

ACTION ITEM:
- **Strategic Plan**

Item 2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** – *15 Minutes, page #35*
McCall Flynn

Item 3 **COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT** – *15 Minutes, page #36*
Dr. Angela McLean

Item 4 **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT** – *15 Minutes, page #38*
Manish Bhatt

Item 5 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – *15 Minutes, page #39*
Lydia Comstock

RECESS

Thursday, November 19, 2026
Alumni Legacy Lounge, Strand Union Building
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance
B. Roll Call
C. Statement of Public Participation
D. Welcome Visitors

- **REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item)**

Item 6 **STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** – *1 Hour, page #41*
State Superintendent Susie Hedalen

- **Assessment Update**
- **MAST Task Force Update**
- **Federal Update**
- **Content Standards Update**
- **Accreditation Update**
- **Intensive Assistance Update**
- **Future Ready Update**

- **MSDB COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Item 7)**

Item 7 **MSDB REPORT** – *30 Minutes, page #64*
Superintendent Paul Furthmyre

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Action on Out of State Travel Requests**
- **Action on Personnel Items**
- **Action on OPI SPED Discretionary Grant**

- **MACIE LIAISON – Julia Maxwell (Item 8)**

Item 8 **MACIE REPORT** – *15 Minutes, page #210*
Jordann Lankford Forster

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Gisele Forrest, MIEA Representative**
- **Bonnie Rosette, SAM Representative**

- **CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Item 9)**

Item 9 **INFORMATION ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FALL ENROLLMENT DATA** – *15 Minutes, page #213*
Christy Mock-Stutz

- **BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TOURS**

10:45AM **VISIT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER CLASSROOMS**
Hyalite Elementary, Bozeman, MT

LUNCH BREAK
*****Lunch will be provided for Board Members and Ex-Officio Members*****

RECONVENE AT 1:00PM

- **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 10-14)**

Item 10 **PRESENTATION ON THE MONTANA EDUCATORS HELPING EDUCATORS PROJECT: CLASSROOM COACH** – *30 Minutes, page #219*
Dr. Michael Brody, Montana State University

Item 11 **INFORMATION ON SITE VISIT, STATE EXIT REPORT, AND CORRECTIVE PLAN FOR MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** – *30 Minutes, page #231*
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

Item 12 **ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** – *15 Minutes, page #244*
Crystal Andrews

Item 13 **ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER REPORT** – *15 Minutes, page #263*
Crystal Andrews

Item 14 **INFORMATION ON THE ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT PROVIDERS LIST** – *15 Minutes, page #297*
Marie Judisch and Aimee Konzen

- **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Items 15-20)**

Item 15 **ACTION ON THE CORRECTIVE PLANS FOR SCHOOLS IN DEFICIENT STATUS FOR ACCREDITATION** – *15 Minutes, page #326*
Crystal Andrews
- **Lame Deer High School**

Item 16 **ACTION ON VARIANCE TO STANDARDS REQUESTS AND RENEWALS** – *15 Minutes, page #331*
Crystal Andrews and Ellery Hill

ACTION ITEMS:
- **Initial Applications**
- **Renewal Applications**

Item 17 **INFORMATON ON THE ANNUAL DATA COLLECTION** – *15 Minutes, page #340*
Nicole Thuotte

Item 18 **REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICIAN STANDARDS** – *15 Minutes, page #344*
Dr. Julie Murgel and Patrick Cates

Item 19 **STUDENT ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW** – *15 Minutes, page #367*
Dr. Julie Murgel and Krystal Smith

Item 20 **ACTION ON THE REQUEST TO REVISE ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND RELATED RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS** – *30 Minutes, page #376*
Dr. Hannah Nieskens

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 21)**

Item 21 **ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 64, TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS** – *5 Minutes, page #379*
Dr. Tim Tharp

RECESS

Friday, November 20, 2026
Alumni Legacy Lounge, Strand Union Building

- **BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION VISITS**

8:30AM **COFFEE WITH SUPERINTENDENT BERTRAM**
Bozeman High School, Bozeman, MT

8:45AM **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PIR**
Bozeman High School, Bozeman, MT

RECONVENE AT 10:00AM

CALL TO ORDER

A. **Pledge of Allegiance**
B. **Roll Call**
C. **Statement of Public Participation**
D. **Welcome Visitors**

- **CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Items 22-25)**

Item 22 **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS COMMISSION** – *15 Minutes, page #382*
Cathy Kincheloe

Item 23 **UPDATE ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS** – *15 Minutes, page #385*
McCall Flynn
- **New Applicants and Interviews**
- **Application and Evaluation Criteria Review**

Item 24 **ACTION ON BITTERROOT POLYTECH AMENDMENT REQUEST** – *10 Minutes, page #386*
McCall Flynn

Item 25 **ACTION ON BILLINGS MULTILINGUAL ACADEMY AMENDMENT REQUEST** – *10 Minutes, page #394*
McCall Flynn

- **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Item 26)**

Item 26 **ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** – *5 Minutes, page #412*
Dr. Ron Slinger

- **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Item 27)**

Item 27 **INFORMATION ON THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT DATA OVERVIEW** – *30 Minutes, page #414*
Dr. Ryan Schrenk

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS January 14-15, 2027 – Helena, MT
Exiting Board Member – Last Meeting & Recognition
MACIE Update
Review Community Choice School Annual Reports
Action on Authorizing Public Charter Schools
Transportation Report
Assessment Update
Federal Update
Annual HiSet Report
Accreditation Report
Educator Licensure Report
Qualify Advanced Opportunity Grant Applications
Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program Report
Content Standards Revision Update
Action on MSDB Superintendent Contract Extension
MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion

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ADJOURN

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Professional Development Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting either in person or via Zoom may qualify you to receive professional development units. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet if you are applying for professional development units.

Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Public comment is welcome on all items listed as "Action" and as noted at the beginning and end of each meeting.

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, kmstockton@mt.gov, 406-444-0302.

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Strand Union Building

Friday, November 20, 2026
Ballrooms, SUB, Montana State University

- **BOARD OF EDUCATION LUNCH**

11:30AM **Strand Union Building, Montana State University**

- **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

12:30PM **Strand Union Building, Montana State University** – *page #417*
AGENDA