

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2024
Zoom

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER – 02:53

Chair Tharp called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call, the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation, and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Dr. Ron Slinger; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guest: Ms. Nancy Hall, Office of Budget and Program Planning.

Chair Tharp welcomed new member Lisa Schmidt to the Board and stated a more formal welcome would be done at the March 18, 2024 meeting.

ADOPT AGENDA – 05:33

Board member Slinger moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ MSDB LIAISON – Renee Rasmussen (Item 1)

Item 1 MSDB REPORT – 05:55 Renee Rasmussen

Board member Rasmussen explained the purpose for the trip pertaining to the out-of-state-travel request.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the Out-of-State-Travel Request for the MSDB as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

Chair Tharp noted the trip is of no cost to the school.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Item 2)

Item 2 ACTION ON PUBLIC CHARTER CONTRACTS – 07:35 Jane Hamman

Charter Committee Chair Hamman reviewed the statute that created public charter schools and the action taken by the Board at the January 2024 meeting approving nineteen public charter schools. Per statute the Board must approve the contracts to authorize opening the public charter schools effective July 1, 2024. Chair Hamman discussed the Board's work with SchoolWorks, who created the contract template, and commended Executive Director Flynn for her diligent work finalizing the contracts. Ms. Flynn discussed the collaboration with SchoolWorks and thanked local school districts for their work and quick turnaround to complete the project. Ms. Flynn reviewed next steps which include sending completed

contracts to each school, developing a timeline for submission of reports, working with school business officials to create forms, and completing the performance framework.

Chair Tharp discussed the legal obligation the Board has to enforce the contracts.

Board member Rasmussen noted the number of reports required and suggested creating a one page document listing each report and a timeline showing when each report is due. Ms. Flynn stated that is something she plans to create.

Board member Quinlan expressed her thanks for the work that went into the charter contracting process and how it is an exciting opportunity for school districts.

Board member Rasmussen questioned who would be reviewing reports and volunteered to be part of the group visiting each school in the first year. Ms. Flynn noted that she would appreciate Board members being part of the school visits and discussed expectations for the reporting process.

Chair Tharp noted that school visits would not be done by the full Board but by small groups, duos, or a single Board member, and that Ms. Flynn will be working with the Montana School Business Officials group to create report forms and streamline the reporting process.

Board member Rasmussen commented on the section in the contract pertaining to closing a public charter school and how funding would be handled.

Board member Hamman moved to approve the Public Charter School contracts as listed in the agenda packet on page #10. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 28:02

No public comment.

Chair Tharp reviewed the upcoming Board meeting on March 18, 2024 in room 152 at the Montana State Capitol.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 AM.