

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

**January 13-14, 2022**  
**Montana State Capitol Building, Room 152**  
**Helena, MT**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Stockton took Roll Call. Chair Lacey read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Ms. Tammy Lacey, Chair; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Vice Chair; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Mary Heller; Ms. Susie Hedalen; Ms. Anne Keith; Dr. Darlene Schottle; Ms. Paige Lepard, Student Representative. Ex-Officio members: Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen; Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office; Dr. Angela McLean, Commission of Higher Education's Office. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests present: Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE; Ms. Jule Walker, MTSBA; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, MSDB Superintendent; Ms. Sarah Pennington; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Jennifer Bogus, Western Governor's University; Ms. Ashley McGrath, OPI; Ms. Jennifer Smith, MACIE Chair; Ms. Sharyl Allen, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Dr. Trent Bayless, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Dr. Adrea Lawrence, University of Montana; Ms. Melissa Robbins.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Lacey noted the November 17-19, 2021 Minutes will be pulled so that public comment attachments can be added, and the revised minutes will be approved in March.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with the January 3, 2022 Minutes and Financial Statements, as presented. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.**

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

**ADOPT AGENDA**

The Chair noted that the Student Representative Report will be moved up to after Item 1. No other changes were noted.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to adopt the agenda with changes noted. Ms. Susie Hedalen seconded the motion.**

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

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **❖ REPORTS – Tammy Lacey (Items 1-6)**

#### **Item 1                      CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT                                  Tammy Lacey**

Chair Lacey wished everyone Happy New Year and discussed the hard work happening in the field with school superintendents, teachers, staff, and students during the most recent pandemic surge because of the Omicron variant. The Chair discussed meetings between the Executive Committee and Superintendent Arntzen’s office, and with Governor Gianforte’s office. The Chair noted her attendance at the MSDB Committee meeting and the MSDB Holiday program. The Chair thanked Dr. Schottle for her time on the Board. Her term is ending January 31, 2022. Members of the Board also expressed their thoughts and thanks to Dr. Schottle for her service and leadership.

#### **Item 6                      STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

Ms. Lepard noted that Great Falls Public Schools are all in remote learning due to a COVID-19 outbreak amongst staff. Finals week is also in progress though all athletic and extracurricular activities have been postponed until the following week. Ms. Lepard updated the Board on other activities going on throughout the month of January and February at CMR High School and throughout the district. Chair Lacey asked for an update on the State Student Council and the search for a replacement for the Student Representative. Ms. Lepard noted that there has been a great deal of interest in the position and the interviews will take place March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The State Student Council Conference is currently being planned.

#### **Item 2                      EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT                                  McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn highlighted a few items including introducing Ms. Renee Rasmussen, who will be the replacement for Dr. Schottle as the newest Board member. Ms. Flynn updated the Board on the Education Interim Budget Committee meeting in December, particularly regarding the Educator Licensure system process in Montana and how that differs from other states in the region. Ms. Flynn noted she is enrolled in a class on writing Administrative Rules, and that the Board received a comment from a member of the public regarding the required 60 renewal units for recertification. The Chair determined that this topic should be researched and assigned it to the Licensure Committee chaired by Ms. Quinlan.

#### **Item 4                      COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S REPORT                                  Dr. Angela McLean**

Dr. McLean noted face to face learning will continue for the University System campuses for the spring semester, congratulated Dr. Schottle on her tenure on the Board, and welcomed Ms. Rasmussen to the Board. Dr. McLean noted that MACIE and AIMA had their first ever joint meeting and that hopefully that will continue in the future. A Tribal Language Conference, held in partnership with the Montana Legislature, took place on the campus of Montana State University-Billings. Dr. McLean highlighted additional activities at the Commissioner’s Office including an update on the College Access Portal, and the Grown Your Own Educator efforts with the first courses beginning January 18, 2022. Dr. McLean answered Board member questions.

#### **Item 5                      GOVERNOR’S OFFICE REPORT                                  Dylan Klapmeier**

Mr. Klapmeier thanked Dr. Schottle for her dedication to students and public education across the state and extended the Governor’s appreciation to her for her service. Mr. Klapmeier discussed the appointment of Ms. Renee Rasmussen as the newest member of the Board. It was noted that three applicants were interviewed and there is a pool of applicants for future appointments. Mr. Klapmeier briefly discussed Ms. Rasmussen’s professional and educational background. Mr. Klapmeier noted the

return of unused money from private schools of Emergency Relief funding that allows the Governor to turn that funding around to public education but that must be fulfilled by February 4, 2022. Workforce training and student mental health are the two areas being considered. The Good Jobs Challenge Grant from the US Department of Commerce is being applied for by the state. Mr. Klapmeier thanked the Board, OPI, and Chapter 57 Task Force members for their work. Mr. Klapmeier also discussed the Native Language Conference hosted by Representative Windy Boy at MSU Billings and that a second conference will be held at University of Montana in March. The next Board of Education meeting will take place in March via Zoom, with a focus on Workforce Development and Career and Technical Education/Training. Chair Lacey invited Ms. Rasmussen to introduce herself to the Board.

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

Superintendent Arntzen gave her report to the Board thanking the Chair for pointing out the challenges already being faced in the New Year, and understanding that flexibility is needed, including the flexibilities in the Chapter 57 recommendations, as well as the Chapter 55 Accreditation standards revisions currently being revised. The Superintendent discussed student mental health, educator mental health, and noted the Governor's commitment to mental health funding as well. The Superintendent also noted flexibility the office is seeking from the Department of Education regarding data collection to ensure duplication is not happening. The Superintendent highlighted the Department of Agriculture grant for school nutrition programs and answered Board member questions.

❖ **MSDB LIAISON - Mary Heller (Item 7)**

**Item 7 MSDB REPORT – (INFORMATION)  
Paul Furthmyre**

Ms. Mary Heller thanked Dr. Schottle for her service and turned the item over to MSDB Superintendent Paul Furthmyre for his report. Mr. Furthmyre discussed his participation in the Executive Leadership Academy. Mr. Furthmyre noted that the phone system may not be available until June due to supply chain issues with the phone switches. Mr. Furthmyre discussed COVID-19 funding available through the US Treasury Department which the MSDB is applying for that would allow the school to have cameras in every classroom to assist in remote learning, if necessary, and for online education. Mr. Furthmyre closed his report by requesting approval of the Action items for Personnel and Out of State Travel Requests.

**Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve the Personnel Actions for the MSDB for the resignation of Ms. Burns. Ms. Quinlan seconded the motion.**

***Dr. Schottle noted the retirement date of Ms. Johnson until the end of the school year.***

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

**Ms. Mary Heller moved to approve Out of State Travel Requests for the MSDB as contained in the agenda packet. Ms. Jane Hamman seconded the motion.**

***Chair Lacey thanked the MSDB Foundation for their support and funding for travel.***

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



❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 12 - 17)

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

**Item 12 INITIAL REVIEW OF BPE CASE # 2020-10, SANTALA – (ACTION)  
Jake Griffith, Chief Legal Counsel, OPI**

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan opened the item and turned it over to Mr. Jake Griffith, Chief Legal Counsel at OPI. Mr. Griffith noted that the OPI, the educator, and his union representative are requesting the item be continued. The initial request was based upon an arrest, and now that there are convictions, an updated letter requesting revocation due to conviction, rather than arrest, is necessary. Mr. Griffith answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve moving the initial review of BPE Case #2020-10, to the March 2022 BPE Meeting. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.**

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

**Item 13 PRESENTATION OF STIPULATION AGREEMENT OF EDUCATOR LICENSE  
SUSPENSION IN BPE CASE #2021-13, COLLINS AND ACTION ON  
DISMISSAL – (ACTION)  
Jake Griffith, Chief Legal Counsel, OPI**

Mr. Griffith noted that this case was set for a contested case hearing, but since the November 2021 meeting, the parties have come to an agreement and the educator has agreed to a suspension of her license through June 30, 2023, when her license expires. Mr. Griffith answered Board member questions.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to accept the stipulation agreement in BPE Case #2021-13 and dismiss the contested case hearing scheduled for January 13, 2022. Ms. Jane Hamman seconded the motion.**

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

**Item 14 UPDATE ON DATA MODERNIZATION AND SCHEDULE FOR CONVERSION  
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE SYSTEM –  
(INFORMATION)  
Crystal Andrews, Zam Alidina**

Ms. Crystal Andrews addressed the Board with Mr. Zam Alidina and reviewed the schedule for converting the current licensure system to a new updated licensure system, which is on track to go live on June 1, 2022. Ms. Andrews discussed how the process is working now, and how initial license applications, and renewal applications, are being processed. OPI is currently using a manual paper process which is working well and to date there have not been any problems or delays. Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions.

**Item 15 ANNUAL TEACHER LICENSURE REPORT – (INFORMATION)  
Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the Licensure Report for the board reviewing the total number of licenses issued, what classes of licenses were issued, areas of Emergency Authorizations and how many were issued, number of Unusual Cases in the past year, and trends over time. Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions. Chair Lacey thanked Ms. Andrews for the thorough report.



**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Smith then reviewed the changes to the Transformational Learning Grant to a lottery process due to the passing of HB89. Ms. Smith reviewed that the application period has ended, and the lottery was completed on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Board has been given the list of schools selected in the lottery process. Ms. Smith briefly reviewed the list of successful applicants.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the Transformational Learning Grant applications and annual reports as presented. Ms. Susie Hedalen seconded the motion.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 19**

**QUALIFY ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS AND ANNUAL REPORTS – (ACTION)**

**Krystal Smith**

Ms. Smith presented a hardship case for the Advanced Opportunity Grant from Drummond Public Schools, due to COVID-19 related issues. Ms. Smith has submitted the information to Chair Lacey who has reviewed the documents and agrees with the hardship. A question of clarification to ensure that this school is not taking the place of a school that was selected was asked, and Ms. Smith answered it is not.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to grant an exception to the application deadline for the Advanced Opportunity Grant to Drummond Public Schools for their initial application. Ms. Anne Keith seconded the motion.**

**Chair Lacey noted that whenever possible, deadlines should be upheld, but that exceptional circumstances do happen.**

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

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to accept the new applications and renewal applications and qualify districts for fiscal year 2023. Ms. Jane Hamman seconded the motion.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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**Friday January 14, 2022**

**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Stockton took roll call. Chair Lacey read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Ms. Tammy Lacey, Chair; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Vice Chair; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Susie Hedalen; Ms. Mary Heller; Dr. Darlene Schottle. Ex-Officio members: Dr. Angela McLean, OCHE; Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor’s Office. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests present: Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Mr. Jay Phillips, OPI; Ms. Susan Court, OPI; Ms. Donell Rosenthal, OPI; Mr. Trent Gibson, Montana Youth Challenge; Ms. Katie Madsen, OPI; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, MSDB; Ms. Shawn Tulloch, MSDB Foundation; Ms. Jule Walker, MTSBA.

**❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 20-27)**

**Item 20**

**YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT (INFORMATION)  
Susan Court**



**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 24 ACTION ON NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 66 PERTAINING TO MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY – (ACTION)  
McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn reviewed the purpose for amending ARM Title 10, Chapter 66 definitions to include Montana Youth Challenge Academy for the Board members. Mr. Trent Gibson of the Montana Youth Challenge Academy and Ms. Katie Madsen at the Office of Public Instruction also added input to the request.

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the Notice of Amendment to ARM Title 10, Chapter 66, pertaining to the Montana Youth Challenge Academy. Ms. Susie Hedalen seconded the motion.**

***Ms. Hedalen thanked Mr. Gibson and Ms. Madsen for their work on this and for the work they do for students.***

***Chair Lacey noted that due to this being a minor change a public hearing will not be held, but that the public comment period is still available through February 28, 2022 and thanked everyone for their work.***

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

\*\*\*\*\*TIME CERTAIN AT 10:30 AM\*\*\*\*\*

**Item 25 INTERVIEW – SUPERINTENDENT, MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND – PAUL FURTHMYRE  
Tammy Lacey**

Chair Lacey reviewed the hiring process and timeline including the job posting, listening sessions held in October and November, the Feedback Panel, and now the hiring committee. Chair Lacey noted that four applications were received, two were selected for an interview with one person withdrawing their application, so only Mr. Furthmyre is being interviewed. Board members asked questions of Mr. Furthmyre for the interview process.

\*\*\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION AT 11:33 AM\*\*\*\*\*

**Item 26 BOARD DISCUSSION ON MSDB SUPERINTENDENT – (ACTION)  
Tammy Lacey**

\*\*\*\*\*OPEN SESSION AT 11:55 AM\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Lacey reconvened the Board in open session from deliberations on the hiring of the MSDB Superintendent.

**Ms. Mary Heller recommended an offer of Superintendent of the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind to Mr. Paul Furthmyre. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.**

***Chair Lacey thanked the Board staff for their work on the hiring process, for those who participated in the Listening Sessions, to the Feedback Panel and to the Board members for quality deliberations.***

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

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - March 10-11, 2022**

*Assessment Update*

*Federal Update*

*Draft – CAEP MOU*

*Accreditation Report*

*Annual School Food Services Report*

*MACIE Update*

*Initial Presentation of MSDB School Calendar*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **ADJOURN**

**Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mary Heller seconded the motion.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

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