

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

January 18-19, 2024
Montana State Capitol Building, Room 152
Helena, MT

Thursday, January 18, 2024
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER 08:30:23

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. Anne Keith; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Mr. Gavin Mow, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Dr. Angela McLean, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE); Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guests: Dr. Daniel Sybrant, Cognia; Ms. Jordann Lankford-Forster, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) Chair; Mr. Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Dr. Christine Lux; Montana State University (MSU); Ms. Marie Judisch, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Principal Anne Penn Cox Winans Elementary School, Livingston; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Mr. John Melick, MSU; Dr. Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM); Mr. Brenton Craggs, Attorney, OPI; Mr. Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel, Agency Legal Services, Superintendent Paul Furthmyre, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Mr. Larry Crowder, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA); Principal Brett Zanto Capital High School; Ms. Melina Pyron, Polaris Classical School; Superintendent Pete Joseph, Corvallis Public Schools; Superintendent Tony Biesiot, Darby Public Schools, Superintendent Rick Duncan, Powell County Public Schools; Dr. Dan Lee, University of Montana (UM); Superintendent Dan Rispens, East Helena Public Schools; Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE); Mr. Alex Rotzal, Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS); Mr. Austin Amestoy, Montana Public Radio; Ms. Christine Kolczak; Dr. Jeril Hehn, Billings Public Schools (BPS); Ms. Jenn Gilbert; Ms. Carrie Kouba, OPI; Mr. Brad Weaver, Cognia; Ms. Barbara Frank, MCPS; Ms. Elizabeth Kaleva, Kaleva Law Firm; Mr. Gary Meyers, Helena Public Schools (HPS); Mr. Rick Wooten, OPI; Mr. Gordon Klasna, BPS; Dr. Chris Olszewski, BPS; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Mr. Caleb Swanson, Glendive Public Schools; Mr. Rob Stutz, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Legal Counsel, OPI; Superintendent Dan Grabowska, Park City Schools; Ms. Kim Popham, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE).

PUBLIC COMMENT – 08:32:21

Ms. Melina Pyron, founding member of the Polaris Classical School, commented on charter schools and concerns she has with the process the Board has taken in opening Public Charter Schools in Montana.

CONSENT AGENDA – 08:40:46

Board member Quinlan moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

Board member Rasmussen thanked the Board for the time stamps and the work taken to complete the minutes.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-2)

**Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 08:42:00
Dr. Tim Tharp**

Chair Tharp thanked members for the work they have put in since the November meeting related to Public Charter School applications, noting that for a volunteer Board there has been a dramatic increase in work for Board members.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 08:44:44
McCall Flynn**

Ms. McCall Flynn reviewed work completed by Board staff since the November meetings, thanked Board members for scoring the applications for Public Charter Schools, and asked for ideas to streamline the process for the next application cycle. Ms. Flynn reviewed recent meetings of the Community Choice School Commission and discussed work completed by the Early Literacy Advisory Council to create the Early Literacy Targeted Intervention program standards. Ms. Flynn noted the Board will act on the proposed standards at this meeting, then concluded her report with a summary of work for HB 338 pertaining to Indian Education for All. Chair Tharp reviewed the implementation process for HB 338 and stated the Board, MACIE, and OPI are working together to implement the new legislation. Ms. Flynn answered Board member questions.

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Item 3)

**Item 3 PRESENTATION ON THE CROSSWALK BETWEEN COGNIA AND ARM
TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, ACCREDITATION STANDARDS – 08:54:40
Dr. Daniel Sybrant**

Mr. Daniel Sybrant presented an overview of the Cognia accreditation process and it’s alignment with the Montana accreditation standards. Superintendent Paul Furthmyre, Principal Brett Zanto, Superintendent Pete Joseph, Superintendent Tony Biesiot, and Superintendent Rick Duncan all discussed their experience with the Cognia accreditation process and how it aligns with the Montana Accreditation Standards. Board members asked questions of the group.

❖ CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Item 4)

**Item 4 WORK SESSION ON THE APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF PUBLIC CHARTER
SCHOOLS – 10:00:50
Jane Hamman**

Chair Tharp opened the item highlighting work done by the Board to review the 26 applications received for the Public Charter School program. Board member Hamman, Chair of the Charter School Committee, thanked the Board for their work, and discussed the process the Board held to review and score the applications, and the interview process that took place during the special Board meeting on November 30, 2023. Board member Keith explained the scoring process and how the numbers were calculated to give each application a final score. Ms. Flynn noted that education partners were asked to review the applications and submit their scores to the Board. Board member Hamman reviewed the number of public comments for each application and whether the comments were in support of, or opposed to, the

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 7)**

- Item 7** **INITIAL REVIEW AND WORK SESSION OF EARLY LITERACY ADVISORY COUNCIL’S RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTION RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 63, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STANDARDS – 13:18:27**
Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Board Association; Dr. Christine Lux, Professor of Early Childhood Education, Montana State University; Marie Judisch, Senior Manager of Teaching and Learning, OPI; Dr. Anne Penn Cox, Principal, Winans Elementary School – Livingston

Ms. McCall Flynn reviewed work the Early Literacy Advisory Council completed pertaining to the implementation of HB 352, Early Literacy Targeted Interventions, the recommendations the Council has made to the Board, and work related to create new standards. Ms. Flynn briefly reviewed the proposed standards recommended by the Council then asked panel members to introduce themselves. Board member Keith began the questions for the panel and upon conclusion of the panel thanked the members for their work.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 8-12)**

- Item 8** **WORK SESSION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, EDUCATOR LICENSURE STANDARDS AND EXPERT PANEL – 13:54:41**
Crystal Andrews, Director of Accreditation and Licensure, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, Chief Program Officer, OPI; John Melick, Director of Field Placement and Licensure, Montana State University; Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana

Vice Chair Hedalen opened the item for the Board and asked Ms. McCall Flynn to introduce the panel members. Vice Chair Hedalen and Board members asked questions of the panel pertaining to the proposed revisions to the Educator Licensure Standards, and Ms. Flynn noted the Board will act on Friday to approve the notice and called for questions.

Dr. Tharp closed the meeting for Executive Session at 2:38 PM for the evaluation of the MSDB Superintendent.

- Item 14** **MSDB SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION**
Dr. Tim Tharp

Executive Session ended at 2:57 PM.

- Item 9** **NOTICE OF THE SURRENDER OF BPE CASE #2023-07 – 15:03:02**
Brenton Craggs, OPI Legal Counsel

Mr. Brenton Craggs notified the Board of the surrender in BPE Case #2023-07.

- Item 10** **ACTION ON INITIAL REVIEW OF BPE CASE #2022-13, HARNING – 15:05:16**
Brenton Craggs, OPI Legal Counsel

Mr. Brenton Craggs reviewed the Superintendent’s request for revocation in BPE Case #2022-13, Harning and answered Board member questions.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve moving BPE Case #2022-13, Harning to a contested case hearing. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Assessment Update – Ms. Cedar Rose, Assessment Director, discussed the third MAST window opening, reviewed the Monitoring and Field Outreach, and highlighted upcoming Assessment Events. Ms. Rose answered Board member questions.

MAST Update – Ms. Krystal Smith discussed the MAST Assessment Pilot, gave an update on outreach to schools, and reviewed the completion data required for the Federal Flexibility Testing Waiver. Ms. Smith discussed recently held external focus groups made up of educators across the state to assist the OPI with MAST implementation and answered Board member questions.

ESSER Update – Ms. Wendi Fawns presented the Federal Report to the Board highlighting the annual data reporting to the Department of Education beginning in March, finalization of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act plans, ESSER Grant Funding Project Outcomes, and an update on the Extended/Expanded Education Learning Opportunity Program. Ms. Fawns answered Board member questions.

Accreditation Report – Ms. Crystal Andrews reported that the OPI continues to provide professional development to districts regarding the new accreditation process and she has been working with SAM to provide training opportunities for districts. The new accreditation platform is on schedule to be released January 31st, and testing is being finalized ahead of implementation. The Accreditation division will be traveling across the state assisting districts with meeting the March 29th reporting deadline for the new accreditation process. Ms. Andrews stated work sessions will be provided to districts in February and March, before answering Board member questions.

Rigorous Action Information – Ms. Carrie Kouba updated the Board regarding the Rigorous Action Plan, and the method to assist schools in correcting deviations to move out of Comprehensive Support.

Transportation Report – Ms. Donnel Rosenthal presented the Annual Transportation Report reviewing the annual Transportation Conference and discussed the ongoing statewide driver shortage. Ms. Rosenthal answered Board member questions.

Content Standards Report – Ms. Marie Judisch gave a brief report on the status of the Content Standards Revision updates and where each content area is in the review cycle.

Data Modernization Update – Mr. Chris Sinrud reviewed the most recent Data Modernization Report submitted to the Education Interim Committee and provided an update on the status of the Data Modernization project for the Board.

Indian Education for All Payments in 20-9-329, MCA – Mr. Jay Phillips provided an overview of the implementation of HB 338 and discussed the status of the implementation process at OPI stating that coordination with school districts is ongoing to follow the statute. Members of the Board Legal Committee commented on the effective date of the statute of July 1, 2024, and the OPI interpretation of the law being effective retroactive to July 1, 2023. It was requested that a resolution be brought forward at the March meeting regarding the effective date. Mr. Phillips answered Board member questions.

Assistant Superintendent Mock-Stutz thanked the OPI staff for their work and for the Board for their time.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 17-24)**

Item 17

**PRESENTATION ON DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
EDUCATION PROGRAMS – 09:44:53**

Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner Sarah Swanson introduced herself and her Leadership Team to the Board. Commissioner Swanson discussed areas she is focusing on including building relationships across the state, working

Board member Keith noted there is still a question of what is transformational and what is innovative. Ms. Flynn stated that the statute defines what is transformational, the bill sunsets in 2025, and that in the future the Legislature may have other requirements.

Vice Chair Hedalen noted the increase in applications is the result of the work of OPI and DLI promoting the program.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Slinger moved to approve the Transformational Learning Grant Annual Reports for 2023. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 22 ACTION ON ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY GRANTS – 11:42:18
Krystal Smith**

Ms. Krystal Smith reviewed changes made to the Advanced Opportunity Grant program during the 2023 Legislature and stated that an increased number of districts have applied resulting in a waitlist of districts to receive funding. Ms. Smith reviewed the application process before answering Board member questions regarding the lack of an Annual Report for Grass Range. Ms. Smith stated that Grass Range has a new Superintendent who is working on the Annual Report, and that she has followed up with the Superintendent numerous times but has not received the report to date..

Board member Slinger moved to approve the qualification of the Advanced Opportunity Grant applications for FY2025. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Slinger asked Ms. Smith the best way to handle Grass Range not submitting an Annual Report. Ms. Smith replied that the district has received funding for two years, the Superintendent is working on the Annual Report, and suggested approving the reports that have been received and she will return at the next meeting with the Grass Range report.

Board member Slinger moved to approve the Advanced Opportunity Grant Annual Reports that have been received for 2023. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 23 INFORMATION ON THE QUALITY EDUCATOR LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – 11:51:27
Jay Phillips**

Mr. Jay Phillips presented information on the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program and reviewed the report of impacted schools, which the Board and OPI are required to post.

**Item 24 PRESENTATION OF THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT – 13:00:12
Genie Zeeck**

Ms. Genie Zeeck presented the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey highlighting topics surveyed including drug and alcohol use, nicotine use, sexual behavior, driving behavior, seatbelt use, and more. Ms. Zeeck noted the survey is free to schools and answered Board member questions.

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Item 25)

Item 25 ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 53, ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CONTENT STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 13:16:12
Madalyn Quinlan

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the Notice of Public Hearing pertaining to rulemaking in ARM Title 10, Chapter 53, English Language Proficiency Content Standards, and authorized filing of the notice with the Secretary of State for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Flynn noted that implementation of these rules is not until 2025 to allow time for Professional Development.

❖ MSDB LIAISON – Renee Rasmussen (Item 26)

Item 26 ACTION ON MSDB SUPERINTENDENT 2024-2025 CONTRACT – 13:19:00
Dr. Tim Tharp

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the MSDB Superintendent 2024-2027 contract. Motion seconded by Board member Vice Chair Hedalen.

Chair Tharp noted this is a 3-year rolling contract.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Items 27-28)

Item 27 ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 63, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STANDARDS AND TIMELINE, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 13:21:02
Anne Keith

Board member Keith moved to approve the proposed Notice of Public Hearing pertaining to rulemaking in ARM Title 10, Chapter 63, Early Childhood Education Standards and Timeline, and authorized filing of the notice with the Secretary of State for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

Ms. Flynn reviewed the timeline to ensure they are completed prior to the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 28

ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTION STANDARDS – 13:23:25
Anne Keith

Board member Keith moved to disagree with Comment 1 and stated that the parental notification requirements are prescribed in the Early Literacy Targeted Intervention statute in 20-7-1803(4), MCA. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

Chair Tharp noted that the statute is clear, and the Board must follow the law, so the response is to disagree.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 29-32)**

Item 30

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL EDUCATOR LICENSURE REPORT – 13:34:31
Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews presented an overview of the 2023-2024 Annual Educator Licensure Report noting additions to the report particularly added endorsements and internships. Ms. Andrews noted the number of licenses granted under the Unusual Cases rule, number of applications denied, number of Emergency Authorizations granted, new licenses in fields of critical endorsements for a five-year period, and an increase in new applications from the previous year. Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions.

Item 29

ACTION ON PRAXIS TEST SCORE FOR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE – 13:58:12
Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the work to add American Sign Language (ASL) to the PRAXIS Assessment and work completed by the expert panel to determine a qualifying score. Ms. Lisa Colon Durham, Educational Testing Services (ETS) explained that ETS partnered with Galludet University to have their ASL assessment added to the PRAXIS Assessment for Montana. Ms. Andrews reviewed the process the expert panel used to determine the passing score, which was forwarded to the PRAXIS Working Group and the Montana Council of Deans of Education (MCDE) who both approved the score of 3+. Ms. Andrews noted that a new test for Special Education will be under review in the coming months.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview Assessment and the qualifying score of 3+. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 31

ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO INITIALLY APPROVE ABCTe AS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM – 14:15:41
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

Dr. Julie Murgel reviewed the legislation passed allowing alternative teacher certification programs in Montana. Dr. Murgel introduced Ms. Jessie Luther, who has been assisting with bringing on a new program, and Ms. Isabelle Welch from ABCTe. Dr. Murgel and Ms. Welch provided background information on ABCTe and answered Board member questions.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to initially approve ABCTe as an alternative teacher certification and endorsement program through January 2026. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

Board member Keith stated her concern that ABCTe does not require student teaching prior to certification, and asked if approval of this program could exclude Special Education certification due to concerns around classroom experience.

Board member Quinlan stated her concerns that current Educator Licensure Standards require classroom experience.

Dr. McLean asked how the pedagogy coursework is handled without actual classroom experience and Ms. Welch described how the test is designed to capture those areas.

Board member Rasmussen asked how long the Initial Approval is, and Dr. Murgel answered that for K-12 accreditation with new schools there is an initial timeframe before site visits occur and then recommendation for full approval for 5 years.

Dr. Dan Lee representing the MCDE gave public comment sharing MCDE's concerns with the ABCTe program and the approval process. MCDE requests the Board delay approval for further consideration.

Ms. Kim Popham commented regarding concerns about underprepared teachers struggling to succeed without classroom experience.

Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher commented about concerns with teachers not having classroom experience, and the lack of Indian Education for All training within the program.

Chair Tharp asked for clarification from ABCTe regarding other states only allowing certain endorsement areas offered by ABCTe. Ms. Welch stated that some states only approve certain areas. The Chair asked what areas OPI is requesting, and Dr. Murgel referred to page 431 in the packet for a list of the endorsement areas being requested.

Chair Tharp asked ABCTe to respond to the issue that their teachers lack student teaching requirements. Ms. Welch replied that their long-standing existence is proof their program works and that their teachers are prepared.

Board member Quinlan asked how the endorsement areas were determined and asked for a response to the concerns surrounding Special Education. Dr. Murgel stated that ABCTe approached OPI after identifying the endorsement areas specific to Montana. Dr. Murgel stated that she sent ABCTe the Montana requirements for the endorsement areas they identified, then gave an example that currently if an individual wanted a Class 5 License and was enrolled through ABCTe they would not be able to be licensed because ABCTe is not an approved teacher certification program in Montana.

Board member Quinlan asked for a comparison between the ABCTe Reading Endorsement program and the recent approval of the Reading Endorsement program at Salish Kootenai College (SKC). Dr. Murgel stated the SKC requirements are very similar to those of ABCTe.

Board member Quinlan noted the heavy work the Board has done with Charter applications and asked if it would be problematic for the Board to delay action until the March meeting for more information and consideration could take place. Ms. Welch stated that it delays an individual's ability to be in the classroom though Dr. Murgel answered a delay would not impact OPI.

Board member Keith inquired about satisfaction of schools with ABCTe teachers. Dr. Murgel responded that surveys are sent to the EPP's about the teachers they have trained, and to employers about the teachers they have hired, to find out if teachers have been adequately trained. Dr. Murgel stated that would be the same expectation for teachers trained by ABCTe.

Board member Keith asked ABCTe how many states have tried ABCTe and have not kept them as an alternative program. Ms. Welch stated that has happened historically due to legislation passed outlawing alternative teacher programs.

Board member Rasmussen stated that any time a new process comes on board the public has concerns, but that she supports an initial two year process to determine the program's success.

Vice Chair Hedalen expressed her appreciation for many aspects of the ABCTe program particularly her interest in the Veteran's component offered by ABCTe, but has concerns with the lack of student teaching, the Special Education program, and the Reading Specialist Program. Vice Chair Hedalen stated she does not want to water down expectations, but that the state is experiencing a teacher shortage, and this program offers a solution to that problem.

Dr. McLean thanked everyone for their input and noted programs such as the Teacher Residency Program, Sprint Degree, Master of Art's in Teaching, and programs that decrease the time to earn degrees and get educators prepared, licensed, and in the classroom. Dr. McLean asked that the Board address the concerns regarding IEFA and Special Education, amend the motion, and let the BPE Licensure Committee gather more information before acting.

Chair Tharp referenced work done with the Constitutional Players regarding the changing face of education and noted that other professions have alternative pathways to be licensed for their profession. However, the Board is responsible for maintaining high quality education.

Vice Chair Hedalen noted she supports many of the components of ABCTe, has concerns with other components, but recognizes that as a whole there are questions and that taking the time to address those concerns seems appropriate.

Vice Chair Hedalen amended the original motion to move Item #31 approving ABCTe as an alternative teacher certification program to the March 2024 meeting. No second.

Back to the original motion. Chair Tharp restated the original motion.

Board member Slinger stated his support of ABCTe and that he would support a friendly amendment to pull Special Education, address teacher mentorship, and the IEFA concerns. He stated he would not support the original motion.

Board member Rasmussen asked if ABCTe certified teachers can take the IEFA course online to satisfy that requirement and Ms. Andrews stated they can complete the online course. Board member Rasmussen stated concerns about slowing the process down too much and that she would not support pulling Special Education after the Annual Licensure Report noted the increased number of teachers who have added Special Education as an endorsement.

Chair Tharp noted that he intends to vote against the motion on the table and if the motion fails he will direct staff to place this on the agenda for the March meeting and direct the Licensure Committee to meet in the interim.

No further discussion. Motion failed 5-2 with Board member Rasmussen and Vice Chair Hedalen voting in favor.

Chair Tharp requested Ms. Flynn to place this item on the March agenda and for the Licensure Committee to meet ahead of the March meeting.

Item 32

**ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, EDUCATOR LICENSURE STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 15:07:02
Susie Hedalen**

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the Notice of Public Hearing pertaining to rulemaking in ARM Title 10, Chapter 57, Educator Licensure Standards, and authorized filing of the notice with the Secretary of State for publication in the Montana Administrative Register. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Item 33)

Item 33

**ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS TO APPROVE AND DENY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS – 15:24:19
Jane Hamman**

Board member Hamman opened the item for the Board to act on the applications for Public Charter Schools noting some late public comment that came in regarding Billings Opportunity School, and a letter from Park City Schools withdrawing their application to create a public charter school.

Board member Hamman moved to approve the resolution to adopt the public charter proposals as listed in the resolution: Billings Early College School, Great Falls Core Elementary School, Kalispell Rising Wolf Charter, Missoula TEACH Academy, Billings Multilingual Academy, Bozeman Bridger Charter, Bozeman Charter School, East Helena 227 Academy, Frenchtown Bronc Fast Track Public Charter, Hamilton Bitterroot Polytech, Helena Mount Ascension Learning Academy, Helena Project for Alternative Learning Academy, Kalispell PACE Academy Charter, Corvallis Distance Learning Charter, Corvallis Transformational Learning Charter, Missoula CONNECT Academy, Boulder Jefferson Academy, Helena Montessori Charter School, Billings Opportunity School. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

*Draft – CAEP MOU
Content Standards Revision Update*

PUBLIC COMMENT – 15:56:18

Dr. Rob Watson thanked Board member Keith for her work on the Board, as a colleague, and as a teacher to his own children. Dr. Watson invited Board members to upcoming SAM meetings, conferences, and monthly webinars which have covered subjects including AI and Accreditation, and upcoming webinars regarding open enrollment, and recording of school board meetings. Dr. Watson discussed concerns with the graduation requirements and implementing the new financial literacy requirements and asked for those areas to be considered if the Accreditation Standards are reopened.

Vice Chair Hedalen thanked Dr. Watson for his assistance to school districts.

Chair Tharp thanked Dr. Watson for the guidance pertaining to the new Accreditation Standards.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

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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.

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