BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

May 9-10, 2024 Montana School for the Deaf and Blind 3911 Central Ave Great Falls, MT 59401

Thursday, May 9, 2024 8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER 04:08

Chair Tharp called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) Superintendent Paul Furthmyre introduced students and staff, before MSDB students led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and performed a brief presentation. 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. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Jane Hamman; Mr. Gavin Mow, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Mr. Joe Thiel, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, (OCHE); Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office; State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guests: Superintendent Furthmyre, MSDB; Ms. Marie Judisch, OPI; Ms. Rachel Cutler, Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS); Ms. Jackie Mainwaring, GFPS; Superintendent Laurie Barron, Evergreen School District; Superintendent Les Meyer, Frenchtown School District (FSD); Principal Riley Devins, FSD; Superintendent Craig Crawford, Stanford Public Schools; Mr. Brenton Craggs, Attorney, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster, Chair, Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education (MACIE); Ms. April Grady, OPI; Ms. Carrie Kouba, OPI; Ms. Krystal Smith, OPI; Mr. Sonny Tapia, Helena Independent Record; Ms. Ashley Perez, OPI; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Ms. Kim Popham, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE); Mr. Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana (UM); Assistant Superintendent Christy Mock-Stutz, OPI; Ms. Aislinn Brown, Attorney, Agency Legal Services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

CONSENT AGENDA 12:48

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

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA 13:13

<u>Board member Schmidt moved to adopt the agenda as presented</u>. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-5)

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT 13:33 Dr. Tim Tharp

Chair Tharp thanked Board members and educators across the state for their work in public education before reviewing meetings he has attended and work he has done on behalf of the Board since the March meeting.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT 17:27 McCall Flynn

Ms. McCall Flynn discussed the ongoing work of the Board Charter Committee in creating financial reports from the newly approved charter schools and beginning preparations for the upcoming application cycle. Ms. Flynn discussed the Early Literacy Home-Based Program Request for Proposal (RFP) and the action item the Board will consider at the meeting to approve the selection. Ms. Flynn provided a brief update on rulemaking and an overview of items on the agenda then concluded her report with an update on the Seal of Biliteracy applications for the current school year.

Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT 26:15 State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen opened her report by updating the Board on the Purple Star School recipients for 2024, including MSDB, and reviewed items OPI staff will be presenting at the meeting.

Assessment Update: Ms. Cedar Rose discussed school site visits conducted by the Assessment team and reviewed the types of assessments the team observed school districts using. Ms. Rose discussed the Assessment Help Desk that is now available, and the types of requests they are receiving from schools before answering Board members' questions. Ms. Rose concluded her report by announcing that the ACT contract is being finalized for use for the 2024-2025 school year for high school juniors.

MAST Update: Ms. Krystal Smith provided an update of the MAST assessment, including the recently completed MAST Roadshow providing support and training for districts, an update on the Federal Testing Waiver submitted to the Department of Education, and future events planned for districts ahead of the full implementation of MAST. Ms. Smith announced the upcoming MAST Summit in August, another MAST Roadshow, upcoming trainings, and feedback the team is receiving from schools. Ms. Smith answered questions from Board members.

Federal Update: Ms. Carrie Kouba presented the Federal Update which included updates on e-Grants and schools exiting targeted support services. Dr. Julie Murgel presented additional information on schools receiving comprehensive or targeted support services and how the OPI is assisting those school districts to resolve the problems they are experiencing.

Accreditation Update: Ms. Crystal Andrews discussed the completion of the Accreditation cycle and work the Accreditation team is doing to assist schools with the reporting process, noting that the team is evaluating and scoring the reports received. The final process will result in a report to be presented to the Board at the July BPE meeting. Ms. Andrews answered Board members' questions.

Content Standards Revisions Update: Ms. Marie Judisch presented an overview of the Mathematics Content Standards, World Language Content Standards, and ELA Content Standards, which are all currently under revision.

Data Modernization Update: Ms. Ashley Perez gave an update on the Data Modernization Project by reviewing ongoing activities, pieces of the project that have been completed, and an update on the Data Lake housing information provided by Infinite Campus. Ms. Perez answered questions on how data from Power School will be brought in without manual intervention.

Superintendent Arntzen introduced April Grady as the new Chief Financial Officer at the OPI. Ms. Grady introduced herself to the Board and highlighted goals she has for the OPI.

Superintendent Arntzen discussed the budget line item the OPI is requesting in their budget for funding for MACIE.

Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT 02:09:35 Joe Thiel

Mr. Joe Thiel discussed ongoing high school and college graduation ceremonies occurring statewide and his attendance at a ceremony of college graduates at the Montana State Prison through Helena College. Mr. Thiel discussed the updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, issues surrounding the rollout, and noted that FAFSA completion and college acceptance numbers are down compared to previous years due to the problems with the new form. Mr. Thiel reviewed the GEAR UP Grant and changes made to the grant, noting that

OCHE has submitted the grant application for the next seven years. Mr. Thiel concluded his report with an update regarding Math placement for incoming college freshman.

Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT 02:20:34 Dylan Klapmeier

Mr. Dylan Klapmeier thanked the staff at MSDB for hosting the Board, then reviewed items from the Governor's Office, including the Governor's 56 County Tour, proclamations made by the Governor regarding financial literacy and work-based learning, meetings with School Administrators of Montana and the Montana School Boards Association to discuss schools that have implemented on site daycares for their faculty and staff. Mr. Klapmeier noted the Governor has written a letter of support for the Perkins State Plan, then discussed ongoing work with the Budget Office to assist districts to access funds from the TEACH Act, reviewed his attendance at the previous week's MACIE meeting, provided an update on the Jobs for Montana Graduates program, and reviewed the Strategic Planning meeting of the Montana Digital Academy Board held in April. Mr. Klapmeier answered Board members' questions.

❖ MSDB LIAISON – Renee Rasmussen (Item 6)

Item 6 MSDB REPORT 02:34:55

Paul Furthmyre

MSDB staff members made presentations to the Board on Indian Education for All, the MSDB Mentoring Program, Portrait of a Graduate, Professional Learning Centers, Cottage Learning Centers, and the Maintenance Program.

<u>Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the personnel items for the MSDB as listed in the agenda packet.</u> Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative Agreement with the MSDB. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the Great Falls High School/MSDB Cooperative MHSA Agreement. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

<u>Board member Rasmussen moved to approve MSDB Policy 5710P and 9320.</u> Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Furthmyre reported that enrollment numbers have increased, and he expects that to continue in the future.

❖ MACIE LIAISON – Susie Hedalen (Item 7)

Item 7 MACIE REPORT 03:34:30 Jordann Lankford Forster

Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster reviewed the informational MACIE meeting held May 1st and reviewed the report she presented at the Montana Indian Education for All conference. Ms. Lankford Forster discussed the funding request from OPI for MACIE and stated her concerns with the amount of money being requested. Ms. Lankford Forster concluded her report by discussing a concern f regarding the lack of student performance improvement on reservation schools and discussed the possibility of holding an American Indian Student Achievement panel at an upcoming Board meeting .

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 8)

Item 8 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT 04:34:09 Gavin Mow

Mr. Gavin Mow announced new members elected to the Montana Association of Student Councils (MASC), and provided an update on the MASC Student Survey he is conducting. Mr. Mow shared how many students have completed the survey and that the survey is open until the following week. Results from the survey will be presented at the July meeting.

❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE - Renee Rasmussen (Items 9-11)

Item 9 ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 56, ASSESSMENT STANDARDS 04:38:29

Renee Rasmussen

Ms. Flynn stated that no public comments have been received on the revisions to Chapter 56, but that the comment period is open until 5:00pm Friday May 10th. If comments are received, they will be brought to the July BPE meeting for consideration, with action to follow the next day. Board member Rasmussen pointed members to the Economic Impact Survey conducted by the OPI. No action was taken.

Item 10 ACTION ON EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTION HOME-BASED PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 04:43:02

Marie Judisch

Ms. Marie Judisch provided an overview of the Request for Proposal process for the Early Literacy Home-Based Program, reviewing the timeline for the RFP, the timeline of meetings held, and members of the group who scored the proposals. Ms. Judisch answered Board members' questions.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve Waterford Research Institute as the Home-Based Early Literacy Program. Motion seconded by Board member Schmidt.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 11 PANEL PRESENTATION ON MONTANA ALIGNED TO STANDARDS THROUGH-

YEAR (MAST) 05:34:53

Rachel Cutler, Curriculum Coordinator, Great Falls Public Schools; Jackie Mainwaring, Student Achievement, Great Falls Public Schools; Superintendent Laurie Barron, Evergreen School District; Superintendent Les Meyer, Frenchtown School District; Principal Riley Devins, Frenchtown School District; Superintendent Craig Crawford, Stanford Public Schools

Board member Rasmussen opened the item and Ms. Flynn directed Board members to the page in their folders for information on the panel members and questions to be asked. Ms. Flynn asked panelists to introduce themselves to the Board and provide their experience with the MAST Assessment product. Board members asked questions of the panel regarding the MAST Pilot Program and their experience with the assessment. Panel members discussed strengths and weaknesses of the MAST Pilot, where improvements could be made, feedback they are receiving from parents and students, and issues that arose implementing the pilot program.

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 12-16)

Item 12 NOTICE OF THE SURRENDER OF BPE CASE #2024-05 Brenton Craggs, OPI Legal Counsel 06:49:46

Mr. Brenton Craggs notified the Board of the surrender of an educator license. The Superintendent had requested revocation of the educator's license, and the educator surrendered their license before the Board's initial review.

Item 13 ACTION ON INITIAL REVIEW OF BPE CASE #2024-03, NO RUNNER Brenton Craggs, OPI Legal Counsel 06:51:44

Mr. Brenton Craggs explained the reasons for the licensure revocation request from the Superintendent for the educator in BPE Case #2024-03, No Runner. Mr. No Runner gave a statement to the Board.

<u>Vice Chair Hedalen approved moving BPE Case #2024-03, No Runner to a contested case hearing to be held at the July 2024 BPE meeting.</u> Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 14 ACTION ON COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 07:05:09

Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

Dr. Julie Murgel reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation for the Board. Vice Chair Hedalen thanked Dr. Murgel for the work she has done.

<u>Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the Council for the Accreditation of Educator</u>
<u>Preparation Memorandum of Understanding effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.</u>
Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 15 ACTION ON PROPOSED PRAXIS TEST SCORE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

07:09:22

Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews presented an overview of the PRAXIS Test Review for Special Education. Ms. Lisa Colon Durham, Educational Testing Service, provided background information regarding what has changed within the test, the multi state standard study to recommend a passing score, and presented adopted passing scores of surrounding states for the Special Education test. Ms. Andrews reviewed the work completed by the Special Education Expert Panel to determine the passing score of 153 for Montana. The score was brought to the PRAXIS Working Committee and then to the Montana Council of Deans of Education. Both groups voted unanimously on the passing score of 153. Board members asked questions of Ms. Andrews and Dr. Murgel. Board members expressed concerns about the recommended passing score and Ms. Kristi Steinberg reviewed reasons the Expert Panel gave for setting the passing score of 153.

<u>Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the adoption of PRAXIS test #5355 Special</u>
<u>Education with a qualifying score of 153.</u> Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

Vice Chair Hedalen asked that this test score be monitored.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 16

ACTION ON THE NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO THE AMENDMENT OF ARM, TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, EDUCATOR LICENSURE STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER 07:30:07 Susie Hedalen

Ms. Flynn reviewed the comments received and the responses from the Board.

<u>Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve the Notice of Adoption pertaining to the amendment of ARM Title 10, Chapter 57, Educator Licensure Standards, and authorized filing of the notice with the Secretary of State's Office for publication in the Montana Administrative Register.</u> Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 17)

4:00 PM GOALBALL ACTIVITY WITH MSDB STUDENTS 07:32:55

Board members participated in a game of Goalball with MSDB students.

Item 17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION 08:21:09 Dr. Tim Tharp

Dr. Tharp closed the meeting for Executive Session at 4:40 PM for the evaluation of the Board's Executive Director. Executive Session ended at 5:28 PM.

The Board recessed for the day at 5:30 PM.

Friday, May 10, 2024 8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER 01:57

Chair Tharp called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. MSDB students led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave a musical performance. 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. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Jane Hamman. Ex Officio member: Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests: Ms. Marie Judisch, OPI; Ms. Trish Schreiber, Chair, Community Choice Schools Commission; Mr. Chris Averill, Chair, MT 250th Commission; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Kim Popham, MFPE; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM; Assistant Superintendent Christy Mock-Stutz, OPI; Ms. Laci Novark, OPI; Ms. Nancy Hall, Office of Budget and Program Planning.

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 18-19)

Item 18 INITIAL REVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARDS 10:37

Marie Judisch, Dr. Julie Murgel

Ms. Marie Judisch opened the item and Dr. Julie Murgel presented an overview of the revisions process and Ms. Judisch reviewed the proposed revisions and the Economic Impact Statement for the Board. Ms. Judisch and Dr. Murgel answered Board members' questions at the conclusion of the presentation. Ms. Flynn reviewed the Administrative Rulemaking timeline for the Board and answered questions.

Item 19 INITIAL REVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 53, MATHEMATICS CONTENT STANDARDS 01:06:55 Marie Judisch

Dr. Murgel gave a summary of the work of the Task Force and the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee which took place over the course of five months. Ms. Judisch reviewed the proposed changes by grade level for the Board and answered Board members' questions. This item will be reviewed again at the July 2024 BPE meeting.

❖ CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Items 20-22)

Item 20 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS COMMISSION 02:28:54 Trish Schreiber

Ms. Schreiber discussed the April Work Session held by the Commission and work that subcommittees are doing to implement goals and objectives established at the work session.

Item 21 REVIEW OF REVISED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION AND

EVALUATION CRITERIA 02:37:52

Jane Hamman

Board member Hamman discussed work the Charter Committee has completed to review and revise the 2024 Public Charter School Application before reviewing the upcoming application cycle. Board members discussed the proposed revisions to the application and offered additional revisions.

Item 22 REVIEW PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK METRICS AND EVALUATION AND RENEWAL CRITERIA 02:56:21

Jane Hamman

Board member Hamman reviewed the draft documents for the Performance Framework Metrics and Evaluation and Renewal Criteria and Ms. Flynn discussed how the documents were drafted. Board member Hamman discussed options for developing standards and discussions the Charter Committee held regarding developing standards. The Board discussed next steps in the process of developing the Performance Framework Metrics, and directed Ms. Flynn to convene a Work Group of public charter school representatives to bring a recommendation on the Public Charter School Performance Framework to the Board at the July 2024 meeting for approval.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 23-25)

Item 23 UPDATE ON 250TH COMMISSION 03:10:37 Chris Averill

Mr. Chris Averill gave a presentation on the Montana 250th Commission, discussing the purpose of the Commission created by the Legislature, and the expectations of the Commission to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the nation. Mr. Averill reviewed members of the committee, quarterly meetings held to date, work subcommittees have completed, the adopted vision and key themes, and goals of the Commission. Mr. Averill answered Board members' questions. Mr. Averill will update the Board on the progress of the Commission at future Board meetings.

Item 24 ACTION ON K-12 PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 03:26:44 Laci Novark

Ms. Laci Novark presented the K-12 Payment Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025 to the Board.

Board member Slinger moved to approve the K-12 Payment Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 25 DISCUSSION ON BOARD PRIORITY BUDGET ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE PLANNING

PROCESS 03:29:49

McCall Flynn

Ms. Flynn reviewed the current budget planning process and stated that agencies have until June 6th to submit any budget requests. Ms. Flynn reviewed the Board budget and noted that since the Board currently has sufficient funding, no specific budget requests will be made. Board members discussed potential requests and whether any budget requests should be made.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS July 17-19, 2024, Helena, MT

Strategic Planning Meeting
MACIE Update
Assessment Update
Federal Update
OPI Staffing Report
Accreditation Report
Content Standards Revision Update

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 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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