

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

November 16-18, 2022
Bozeman, MT

Thursday, November 17, 2022
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Stockton took Roll Call. The Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Dr. Tim Tharp; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Tammy Lacey; Ms. Jane Hamman; Mr. Charles Fox, Student Representative. Ex Officio members: Superintendent of Public Instruction 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: Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Jule Walker, Montana School Boards Association; Dr. Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana; Mr. Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association, (MREA); Ms. Jenny Murnane-Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE); Ms. Chris Noel, OPI; Ms. Katie Madsen, OPI; Ms. Jordann Lankford, Chair of Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE); Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI; Mr. Gary Lusin Bozeman Trustee; Dr. Dan Lee, University of Montana (UM); Ms. Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE); Mr. Austin Waldbillig, OPI; Dr. Kari Dahle-Huff; Ms. Marcy Fortner, OPI; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana; Mr. Mike Van Vuren, Bozeman School District; Ms. Shannon Boswell, OPI; Ms. Susan Catano, OPI.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gary Lusin, Bozeman School Board Trustee, gave public comment regarding the process for revising the Chapter 55 Standards of Accreditation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Jane Hamman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

❖ **REPORTS – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 1-4)**

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Madalyn Quinlan

Chair Quinlan thanked the Board for electing her as Chair and recapped meetings and events she has attended on behalf of the Board since the September meeting. The Chair ended her report by thanking the members of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) for their work revising the Montana Professional Educator Code of Ethics.

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
McCall Flynn**

Ms. Flynn thanked Superintendent Bertram and the Bozeman School District Administration for hosting the Board and for their assistance coordinating the meeting. Ms. Flynn reviewed the public hearing held October 31, 2022 on the revisions to Chapter 55, Standards of Accreditation, and noted the unusual volume of public comments received by the Board regarding the proposed revisions. Ms. Flynn discussed the continued work of Board committees in the interim between meetings and thanked members for their involvement. Ms. Flynn ended her report by briefly discussing the Governor's Budget which was released earlier in the week and highlighted a few specifics pertaining to the Board's budget.

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

Superintendent Arntzen gave her report to the Board which included legislative priorities for OPI for the upcoming session, and ongoing discussions surrounding a possible change to the timing of school board elections. The Superintendent commended Student Representative Fox on the successful State Student Council Conference earlier in the month. The Superintendent concluded her report by reviewing the work on revisions to both Chapter 58 Educator Preparation Program Standards, and Chapter 55 Standards of Accreditation, and discussed the possibility of opening the Reading Standards by the Fall of 2023.

**Item 4 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
Charles Fox**

Mr. Charles Fox gave his update to the Board reviewing the State Student Council Conference in Great Falls which had a record turnout of 480 students and 60 advisors. Planning is ongoing for statewide District Meetings in 2023. Mr. Fox discussed presentations he gave during the conference explaining the Board of Public Education and what the Student Representative's role on the Board is. The information was well received, and Mr. Fox reported that he gathered a lot of attention from students who are interested in applying for the Student Representative role next year after Mr. Fox graduates. Ms. Tammy Lacey encouraged Board members to follow the State Student Council on Facebook for updates and information on what the Council is doing. Ms. Flynn thanked Mr. Fox for his continued work. Mr. Fox answered Board member questions.

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 5 - 8)

**Item 5 UPDATE ON SHARED POLICY GOALS DISCUSSION
Madalyn Quinlan, Superintendent Arntzen**

Ms. Flynn opened this item and reviewed the discussion the Board and Superintendent Arntzen held at the September Board meeting. A subcommittee of Board members and OPI was convened in the interim to work on goals. Superintendent Arntzen gave remarks on her ideas for shared goals. Ms. Lacey, Rasmussen, and Hamman, who were a part of the subcommittee working on goals, commented on the work that has been done planning shared goals, and ideas they have moving forward. Other members commented on the proposed goals shared by the Superintendent.

**Item 6 ANNUAL HiSET REPORT
Katie Madsen**

Ms. Katie Madsen, OPI, presented the Annual HiSET report for the Board. Ms. Madsen pointed members to the report in the agenda packet and provided additional information and statistics for the Board. Ms. Madsen answered Board member questions.

**Item 7 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDERS
Chris Noel**

Ms. Chris Noel, OPI, presented the Annual Professional Development Providers report for the Board. Ms. Noel reviewed the report for Board members, summarizing the number of providers who offer Professional Development Units, how many activities were offered, and that school districts and OPI offer the most activities for educators. Ms. Renee Rasmussen thanked Ms. Noel for the report, and Ms. Tammy Lacey noted how this report ties to the Board's Strategic Plan.

**Item 8 TEACHER LEARNING HUB REPORT
Chris Noel**

Ms. Chris Noel, OPI, presented the Teacher Learning HUB report to the Board and noted the report contained in the agenda packet. Ms. Noel highlighted details from the report and noted a technical update coming to the courses effective July 1, 2023. Ms. Tammy Lacey gave remarks on how she utilized the Teacher Learning HUB this past summer. Ms. Noel answered Board member questions.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 9)**

**Item 9 ASSESSMENT UPDATE
Chris Noel**

Ms. Chris Noel, OPI, presented the Assessment Report for the Board, reviewing the CGSA Grant Update, the Montana Alternative Student Testing (MAST) Pilot Program and Implementation update, Science Test Scores, and the dates of the 2022-2023 Testing Window. Ms. Noel answered Board member questions.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 10-12)**

**Item 10 ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT SCHEDULE
Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, reviewed the Accreditation Site Visit Schedule with the Board, explaining that the next review is set for the University of Montana Western. Dr. Murgel expects an initial presentation on the results of the review to be presented to the Board in May 2023. Dr. Murgel reviewed the site visit schedule for the remaining Educator Preparation Programs and answered Board member questions.

**Item 11 ACTION ON MSU-BILLINGS GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION REQUEST
Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, and Dr. Tom Manthey, MSU-Billings, explained the reasons for their request to extend Montana State University's site visit review from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions.

Ms. Susie Hedalen moved to approve MSU-Billings Good Cause Extension request and move the scheduled visit from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 12 REVIEW OF THE VIRTUAL JOINT SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA EDUCATION PREPARATION PROGRAM (EPP) IN THE PHYLLIS J WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION APRIL 10-12, 2022
Dr. Julie Murgel**

Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, and Dr. Dan Lee, UM, presented the Joint Site Visit and State Exit report for the University of Montana Educator Preparation Program to the Board. Dr. Adrea Lawrence and Ms. Kristi Steinberg from the University of Montana joined the meeting via Zoom. Dr. Murgel reviewed the report for the Board noting this is a draft report and that corrections will be made prior to the final report coming to

the Board for approval at the January 2023 meeting. Dr. Murgel and Dr. Lee answered Board member questions.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Item 14)**

**Item 14 ACTION ON REVISED TIMELINE FOR REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10,
CHAPTER 58, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
STANDARDS
Susie Hedalen**

Ms. Flynn explained that the original timeline had the Board acting on and approving the revisions to Chapter 58 at the November meeting. Since the Board is taking additional time to review the comments and will not approve the revisions until the January 2023 meeting the timeline needs to be revised. The Board was presented a new timeline for their approval.

Ms. Susie Hedalen moved to approve the revised timeline for revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 58, Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Susie Hedalen (Item 13)**

**Item 13 MACIE REPORT
Jordann Lankford Forster**

Ms. Jordann Lankford-Forster, MACIE, presented the MACIE report to the Board. MACIE did not hold a meeting in October due to most members attending a national convention on Indian Education, but MACIE did hold a work session on November 9th where a new Vice Chair, Jonathan Eagleman, was elected. Ms. Lankford shared a brief biography of Mr. John Stiffarm, who has been nominated to fill the Class 7 representative on MACIE.

Ms. Susie Hedalen moved to approve the nomination to MACIE for Mr. John Stiffarm as the Class 7 Representative. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

Ms. Tammy Lacey congratulated MACIE on having a full Board now that this position is filled.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **LICENSURE COMFMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Item 15)**

**Item 15 ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON
REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 58, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR
PREPARATION PROGRAM STANDARDS
Susie Hedalen**

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan reviewed the remaining areas of Chapter 58 in which public comment was made and that the Board did not finalize at the September meeting. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan answered Board member questions. Ms. Renee Rasmussen suggested replacing “equitable distribution” with “data driven distribution”. A discussion ensued surrounding the two phrases.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to retain the title phrase in New Rule II, English as a Second Language. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the recommendation of the Board Licensure committee related to World Languages 10.58.511. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Ms. Tammy Lacey thanked the commenter who noted the need to clarify Classical Languages.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to use the title “Industrial Trades and Technology Education” in 10.58.515. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the recommendation of the Board Licensure Committee related to 10.58.521. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Renee Rasmussen and Ms. Tammy Lacey thanked the committee for their work.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to approve the recommendations related to 10.58.610(1)(e). Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI, regarding the proposed revisions to reinsert “gender and sexual orientation”.

Comment from Ms. Jane Hamman regarding the proposed revisions to reinsert “gender and sexual orientation”.

Comments from Ms. Tammy Lacey about keeping the language in rule.

Comments from Ms. Renee Rasmussen to keep “gender” but is struggling with the phrase “sexual orientation”, but noted that because it is the original language, not new language, she could agree to keep it.

Mr. Charles Fox noted that these conversations are going on in school more often and there is a need to be prepared and comfortable addressing them. These issues are talking points for students, and they will continue to come up.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Ms. Jane Hamman dissenting.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to disagree with the comment to reinsert language in 10.58.601(1)(f)(iii). Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan moved to adopt the recommendation of the Board Licensure Committee for 10.58.705, with the additions requested from Ms. Jane Hamman. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Public comment from Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, on the reasons behind the proposed revisions surrounding "integrated action plans", which is replacing the Continuous School Improvement Plans (CSIP).

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan thanked Dr. Murgel for her comments and noted her hesitancy in making the change after hearing comments from Dr. Murgel.

Public comment from Dr. Rob Watson, SAM, clarified that strategic planning is important but that the actions are drawn from the strategic plan.

Public comment from Mr. Gary Lusin agreed with Dr. Watson's comments noting that the Bozeman District Strategic Plan contains the Action Plan.

Comments from Ms. Jane Hamman to keep "integrated action plan".

Ms. Renee Rasmussen asked why the change from Continuous School Improvement Plan to Integrated Action Plan. Dr. Julie Murgel explained it was to contain both the improvement plan and the action plan and to integrate them.

Ms. Tammy Lacey suggested "strategic action plan".

Dr. Tim Tharp entertained a friendly amendment and moved to rename "integrated strategic action plan". Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No further discussion. Motion passed.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comments 5 and 6 and accept the language as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Public comment from Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Ms. Susie Hedalen and Ms. Tammy Lacey dissenting.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved without objection to direct Board staff to respond to comments 7 and 8.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to partially agree with comment 9 and recommend the following language: "(vii) families and school staff collaborate with members of the community to connect students, families, and staff to post-secondary education opportunities, including workforce training, career pathways, and degree programs, and encourage students to explore college and career planning tools and incentives provided by post-secondary institutions in Montana and participate in FAFSA completion and college application week."

Comments from Ms. Tammy Lacey questioning if FAFSA and college application week will remain unchanged, and the rule won't need updating in the future. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan assured the Board that the wording was chosen to remain as generic as possible to prevent the need to amend rule in the future.

Comments from Ms. Renee Rasmussen noting concern about listing these activities in rule, and that the Board is deciding what the mission of the school should be.

Motion restated with minor edits: Dr. Tim Tharp moved to partially agree with comment 9 and recommend the following language: “(vii) families and school staff collaborate with members of the community to connect students, families, and staff to post-secondary education opportunities, including workforce training, career pathways, and degree programs, and encourage students to explore college and career planning tools and incentives provided by post-secondary institutions. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

Motion passed with Ms. Renee Rasmussen abstaining.

NEW RULE III MENTORSHIP AND INDUCTION

Dr. Tim Tharp moved without objection to direct Board staff to respond to comment 10.

NEW RULE IV EVALUATION

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comments 11 and 12 and accept the language proposed by the commenters. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI, cautioning against providing names of entities in rule.

Public comment from Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE, suggesting replacing the naming of entities with “organizations that represent 99% of education entities in Montana.”

Public comment from Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA, noting that the language proposed in comment 11 has been around for decades.

Ms. Susie Hedalen asked if this is in current rule. Ms. McCall Flynn noted it is and is being moved from 10.55.701.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to partially agree with comment 13 excluding the language in (4)(a)(i)-(v) proposed by the commenter. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Public comment from Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE, requesting the language update MEA-MFT to MFPE.

Clarifications on how the language will read.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW RULE V ENGLISH LEARNERS

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to partially agree with comment 14, with no plans to add additional language to include “technical assistance when needed”. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

10.55.601 ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: PROCEDURES

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 15. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection withdraw comment 16, as it has already been addressed.

10.55.602 Definitions

Without objection postpone comment 17 until January 203 meeting.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 18. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection postpone comment 19 until January 2023 meeting.

Comment 20 – discussion about “graduate profile” or “education profile”.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan asked Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI, to address the term “graduate profile”.

Ms. Tammy Lacey noted there are many different definitions of “graduate profile”.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 20 and retain the proposed language of graduate profile and agree with comment 21 and direct Board staff to ensure language of “graduate profile” is used throughout the rule. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Public comment from Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA.

Comments from Ms. Renee Rasmussen as to how “graduate profile” will be defined and used, and concerns that this will require schools to go beyond the minimum standards. Discussion ensued amongst Board members on this topic.

Motion restated.

No further comments. Motion passed with members Ms. Susie Hedalen and Ms. Renee Rasmussen dissenting.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 22 with edits contained in previous action. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

Ms. Susie Hedalen noted difficulty in approving a definition for something she hasn’t seen.

Ms. Renee Rasmussen noted that this puts sideboards on school districts, and she agrees with this.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Ms. Susie Hedalen dissenting.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 23.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 24. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 25 based on previous Board action.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 26. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 27. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Ms. Tammy Lacey noted the definition is odd. Discussion ensued over this definition.

Without objection postpone comment 27 until January 2023.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 28 and add “public entities” to 10.55.602(43)(b) in “personalized learning. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Comments from members Ms. Tammy Lacey and Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 29.

Without objection, postpone comments 30-31 until January 2023 meeting.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 32.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with Comment 33. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection, postpone comments 34-35 until January 2023 meeting.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 36. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection, postpone comment 37 until January 2023 meeting.

10.55.603 CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 38 and work with OPI to ensure there are relevant and timely professional development opportunities available on the Teacher Learning Hub. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Comment from Ms. Tammy Lacey thanking the individual for their comment.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to accept comment 39. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

10.55.604 VARIANCES TO STANDARDS

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 40 as this new timeline allows school districts the flexibility to retroactively seek a variance, rather than predict their student count and potentially be out of compliance if their predictions are incorrect. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding comments 41 and 42.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comments 41 and 42 and approve proposed language. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 43 and 44 based on previous action.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 45 as an application is necessary for the application process. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

10.55.605 CATEGORIES OF ACCREDITATION

Board members engaged in a lengthy discussion about the newly proposed categories of accreditation.

Without objection postpone comments 46-50 to January.

10.55.606 ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 51 as this language outlines the accreditation process. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

10.55.701 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 52 and recommend that the Superintendent of Public Instruction keep a public list of policies related to state and federal requirements. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 53. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 54-56.

10.55.702 LICENSURE AND DUTIES OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR – DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 57 as these are Accreditation Standards and can differ from Educator Preparation Program Standards. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

Comments from Ms. Tammy Lacey specific to the proposed revisions relating to internships.

Clarification on the proposed language from Ms. McCall Flynn.

Additional comments from Ms. Tammy Lacey on the proposed language.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

10.55.703 LICENSURE AND DUTIES OF SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Without objection direct Board staff to respond based upon response to comment 57.

Public comment from Dr. Rob Watson, SAM, explaining the question the commenter had regarding principal duties that have been added in the proposed language, questioning the research done which added these duties, and are there additional duties that should be added?

Ms. Tammy Lacey concurred with Dr. Watson and noted no duties were added to the Superintendent section.

Public comment from Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, that Superintendent duties are outlined in statute, but duties of a principal are not outlined in statute.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan stated that it may be helpful to crosswalk this section with Chapter 58 before making a decision.

Without objection, 10.55.702-703 postpone until January 2023 meeting for further research.

10.55.704 ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL: ASSIGNMENT OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Dr. Tim Tharp opened this section for discussion on the comments received in this section. Ms. Tammy Lacey stated that superintendents are important for school leadership. Comments from Ms. Renee Rasmussen about setting minimum standards and discussions she has had with other superintendents who had concerns about removing ratios, noting that districts can apply for a Variance to Standards if they are struggling to meet the standards. Ms. Anne Keith echoed those comments having served on the Variance to Standards Board, but guardrails are needed, and the ratios are those guardrails. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan commented that the proposed revisions offer the flexibility to fall through the floor and not provide the minimum standards. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan agreed that the Variance to Standards process is the method districts should use to meet the minimum standards. Ms. Tammy Lacey read a public comment opposing the revisions. Ms. Jane Hamman noted that she wants schools to have flexibility, but guard rails are also needed to safeguard the basic minimum standards.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 59. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI, reminding members there is statute around Superintendents and requirements of a Superintendent.

Public comment from Casey Bertram, Superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools, opposing removing the ratios.

Public comment from Gary Lusin, Trustee, Bozeman Public Schools, opposing removing the ratios.

Public comment from Diane Fladmo, MFPE, opposing removing the ratios.

Public comment from Bill Starkey, Montana School Counselor Association, opposing removing the ratios.

Public comment from Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, supporting removing the ratios.

Comment from Ms. Tammy Lacey that districts won't get rid of Superintendents, Counselors, or Librarians immediately, but it will happen over time. Budget crises will occur, and positions will be cut. Sideboards are important, and the Variance to Standards process allows schools to meet the accreditation standards.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 60 based on previous action.

10.55.705 ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL: ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS/PRINCIPALS

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 61. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comment 62 based on previous action.

10.55.706 TEACHER INVOLVEMENT

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 63. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

10.55.708 TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS

Board discussion ensued on the proposed language in this section.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with Comment 64. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

Public comment from Ms. Diane Fladmo, MFPE, opposing removing the ratios.

Public comment from Ms. Jenny Murnane-Butcher, MOFE, opposing removing the ratios.

Comments from Ms. Tammy Lacey that allowing prep time for teachers sends the message that they are valued.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan commented that there is not a problem with prep time, and she will oppose the motion.

Ms. Renee Rasmussen commented that she is torn because teachers need their planning time.

No further discussion. Motion failed on a 3-4 vote. Dr. Tim Tharp, Ms. Susie Hedalen, Ms. Jane Hamman in favor; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Ms. Anne Keith, Ms. Renee Rasmussen, and Ms. Tammy Lacey opposed.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan noted that based on the Board's vote, the Board will agree with comment 64.

10.55.709 LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES, K-12

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 65. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Public comment from Ms. Chani Craig, Whitefish School District and Montana Library Association, opposing removing the ratios, and thanked the Board for their work.

Public comment from Ms. Alice Asleson, librarian in Billings Public Schools in favor of maintaining the ratios.

Public comment from Ms. Monica Anderson, elementary school librarian in Billings, in favor of maintaining the ratios.

Public comment from Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI, in favor of removing ratios.

Ms. Anne Keith commented that they saw librarians at work and kids thriving in the schools they toured yesterday.

Ms. Jane Hamman asked for clarification on the motion and does it revert to the original language or not.

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan asked Dr. Tim Tharp to clarify the motion. Dr. Tharp clarified that the motion is to agree with the commenters and to retain the original language in 10.55.709.

Ms. Renee Rasmussen stated that she is not necessarily opposed to the proposed language but that there is not a good process to make it work.

Public comment from Ms. Karen Mayhall, librarian at Skyview High School, thanking the Board for their time working on this and asked the Board to retain the ratios.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Ms. Jane Hamman dissenting.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 66-67.

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to disagree with comment 68. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Without objection direct Board staff to respond to comments 69-70.

10.55.710 ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF

Dr. Tim Tharp moved to agree with comment 71. Motion seconded by Ms. Susie Hedalen.

Public comment from Ms. Tanya Kirschman, Assistant Board Chair of Montana School Counselors Association and School Counselor in Billings, requesting the Board to retain the ratio.

Ms. Susie Hedalen commented that she has been on both sides of the challenge of hiring school counselors and she agrees with the comments that until there is another plan or a way to move forward, we need to retain the ratios for counselors.

Clarification from Ms. Jane Hamman to clarify that the current ratio is 1:400.

Public comment from Ms. Kailey Mayo, Montana School Counselor Association, opposed to removing the ratios.

Public comment from Ms. Katie Thomas, School Counselor in Polson and member of the Montana School Counselor Association Board opposed to removing the ratios.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Out of State Travel requests for MSDB staff as listed in the agenda packet and with thanks to the MSDB Foundation for supporting travel. Motion seconded by Ms. Jane Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Pay Increase for Exempt Pay Plan 61 MSDB Employees as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

Superintendent Furthmyre clarified this is the statutory pay increase.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the update to the MSDB ESSER II Grant. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the OPI Discretionary Grant for the MSDB. Motion seconded by Ms. Renee Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Quinlan closed the meeting for the Board to hold the evaluation for Superintendent Furthmyre.

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

Item 23 MSDB SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

*****OPEN SESSION*****

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:35 AM.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS January 12-13, 2023, Helena

Exiting Board Member – Last Meeting and Recognition

MSDB Superintendent Contract Extension

Transportation Report

MACIE Update

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Accreditation Report

Teacher Licensure Report

Qualify Transformational Learning & Advanced Opportunity Grant Applications

Critical Quality Educator Shortage Area Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment from Ms. Jenny Murnane-Butcher thanking the Board for their work on Chapter 55 and encouraging the Board to consider setting ratios for Special Education Case Loads in the future.

Ms. Tammy Lacey read correspondence she received regarding the awards for Excellence in Academic Teaching: Lisa Mollencamp, Amanda Rapstad, Cara Owens, Jennifer Warner, Dan Reis are the five state finalists.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Professional Development Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting 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, email at: kmstockton@mt.gov or phone at 406-444-0302.