

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

November 15-16, 2023

Missoula County Public Schools, Administration Building, Board Room
909 South Ave. West, Missoula, MT

November 17, 2023

University of Montana, College of Education, Room 334
32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Missoula County Public Schools

1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tharp called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Chair Tharp 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: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Jane Hamman. Ex-Officio members present: Superintendent Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office; Dr. Angela McLean, OCHE. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guests: Superintendent Furthmyre, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster, Chair, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE); Ms. Trish Schreiber, Chair, Community Choice School Commission; Mr. Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Ms. Krystal Smith, OPI; Mr. Chris Gentile, New Meridian; Ms. Ashley Eden, New Meridian; Ms. Wendi Fawns, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Mr. Chris Sinrud, OPI; Mr. Brenton Craggs, Attorney, OPI; Mr. Bryant Stone; Mr. Doug Reisig, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC); Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE); Mr. Alex Sakariassen, Montana Free Press; Superintendent Tony Biesiot, Darby Public Schools; Superintendent Tom Korst, Hamilton Public Schools; Superintendent Pete Joseph, Corvallis Public Schools; Mr. Chip Lindenlaub.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 00:00:00

Mr. Chip Lindenlaub gave public comment regarding the 26 applications for Public Charter schools.

CONSENT AGENDA – 00:00:30

Board member Quinlan moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA – 00:01:33

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-6)

Item 1 **CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 00:02:00**
Dr. Tim Tharp

Chair Tharp reflected on work the Board and committees have accomplished since the September meeting, including work he has done and meetings he has attended in the interim. Chair Tharp advocated for Mental Health Awareness for all communities.

Item 2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 00:04:17**
McCall Flynn

Ms. Flynn reviewed work the staff has completed since the September meeting pertaining to the Public Charter school applications, the application process, and the financial set up for the two new funds created for the Charter School programs. Ms. Flynn thanked Ms. Balsam and Ms. Stockton for their work setting up the funds to enable the programs to receive donations. Ms. Flynn highlighted work the Early Literacy Advisory Council has done per HB 352, Early Literacy Targeted Interventions.

Item 3 **STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – 00:08:48**
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen reviewed the Montana Teacher of the Year selection process noting that the teacher will be introduced at the Board of Education meeting. The Superintendent also discussed Early Literacy work underway at the OPI, and work pertaining to health care that Montana Ready Counselors are handling, before turning the report over to OPI staff for updates.

Assessment Update – 00:13:22

Ms. Cedar Rose presented the Assessment report to the Board discussing a recent symposium held regarding Assessment, final preparations for the Science Assessment, Alternative Science Assessment, and ACT, for Federal Peer Review. Ms. Rose highlighted follow up information requested by the Board for the 2022-2023 Assessment Cycle and answered Board member questions.

MAST Update – 00:18:07

Ms. Krystal Smith updated the Board on the MAST Pilot project which will be the standard assessment for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Smith discussed feedback received from the first testing window, and upcoming professional development opportunities for educators. Mr. Chris Gentile and Ms. Ashley Eden from New Meridian joined the meeting and gave a high-level summary of the MAST program, how it aligns with the curriculum the students are learning to best assess the student's level of knowledge of the material, the long-term plan for the next two school years, and new features that will be available to educators. Mr. Gentile and Ms. Eden answered Board member questions. Superintendent Arntzen added additional information related to the MAST program and implementation efforts.

ESSER Update – 00:38:04

Ms. Wendi Fawns reviewed the most recent financial information related to ESSER funds, including money granted, money expended, funds attached to specific projects, and funds that have yet to be expended. Ms. Fawns reviewed different projects and programs that schools are using the funding for before answering Board member questions.

Accreditation Report – 00:49:44

Ms. Crystal Andrews provided updates from the Accreditation Division at the OPI, noting the team has provided Professional Development sessions for Administrators to review the new accreditation process for the current school year. Ms. Andrews noted that the Accreditation page on the OPI website has additional information for districts regarding the new process. Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions regarding professional development opportunities for districts.

Data Modernization Update – 00:57:25

Mr. Chris Sinrud provided an update on the Data Modernization Project for the Board, pointing to the Data Modernization page on the OPI website for the most recent information. Mr. Sinrud gave a brief overview of the project status for the Board, in particular work being done for the new Accreditation system, and the timeline for the project, before answering Board member questions.

Rigorous Action Information – 01:04:13

Ms. Carrie Kouba discussed the Montana ESSA plan pertaining to Rigorous Action.

**Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 01:07:44
Dr. Angela McLean**

Dr. Angela McLean presented the Commissioner of Higher Education report to the Board discussing work of the American Indian Minority Achievement (AIMA) Council, announcing that Fall 2023 has seen a record number of American Indian student enrollment across all but two campuses of the Montana University System (MUS). Dr. McLean discussed work pertaining to Education Lab which has helped develop micro pathways for students to obtain the credentials they need in 12 months. Dr. McLean reviewed the recent Montana's Future at Work Summit and closed by thanking everyone for the success of the Apply Montana program. Dr. McLean answered Board member questions.

**Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT – 01:22:18
Dylan Klapmeier**

Mr. Klapmeier announced that his report will be provided at the Board of Education meeting on Friday.

**Item 6 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 01:22:33
Gavin Mow**

No student report was given.

❖ **MSDB LIAISON – Renee Rasmussen (Item 7)**

**Item 7 MSDB REPORT – 01:22:55
Paul Furthmyre**

Board member Rasmussen opened the item and noted that she and Executive Director Flynn traveled to Great Falls to the MSDB Foundation Meet and Greet the previous week. Board member Rasmussen turned the item over to Superintendent Furthmyre who gave his report to the Board by reviewing the Personnel Actions, Out of State Travel actions, Great Falls Public Schools MOU, Policy 2100 change, and the ESSER III Amendment, before asking the Board to act upon those items. Superintendent Furthmyre announced the hiring of a Nurse Practitioner at the school, a position the school has previously not had. Superintendent Furthmyre reviewed additional policies for First reading, then requested the Board approve the policies for Second reading before the first week of December. Members discussed the request and set a date of November 27th, 2023, to address and approve the Second reading of the policies and the MSDB Transformational Learning Application.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the Personnel Action report as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the Out-of-State-Travel requests as amended by Superintendent Furthmyre. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the MSDB Policy 2100 as listed in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the ESSER III Amendments as presented in the agenda packet. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the MOU with Great Falls Public Schools for educational services as presented in the packet. Motion seconded by Board member Keith.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Susie Hedalen (Item 8)**

**Item 8 MACIE REPORT – 02:11:34
 Jordann Lankford Forster**

Ms. Jordann Lankford Forster updated the Board with details from the most recent MACIE meeting, noting new openings on the Council, and an update of their Bylaws, before reviewing the request from MACIE for the Board to support their letter to the National Education Association.

Vice Chair Hedalen moved to approve adding the Board of Public Education as a supporter to the MACIE letter to the National Education Association. Motion seconded by Board member Keith.

Chair Tharp asked Ms. Lankford Forster for some background information that led to the Council writing the letter.

Board member Keith asked if MACIE had requested the Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) to sign on, and Ms. Lankford Forster indicated they will be making the request to MFPE following the Board meeting.

Board member Hamman voiced concerns over some wording in the letter.

Chair Tharp asked if there was an association supporting Native Americans and Indian Education that was aware of the situation and Ms. Lankford Forster noted that there is, and they are aware of the issue.

Vice Chair Hedalen thanked Ms. Lankford Forster for their work with Indian Education and Achievement.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Hedalen thanked MACIE for their work. Ms. Lankford Forster answered Board member questions, and thanked Ms. Flynn and Vice Chair Hedalen for their support of MACIE.

❖ **CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Items 9-10)**

**Item 9 UPDATE ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS AND SPECIAL
 MEETING – 02:27:04
 Jane Hamman**

Board member Hamman updated the Board on work the committee has done since the application deadline closed on November 1st. Board member Hamman noted 26 applications were received and one application did not qualify, so the Board will review 25 applications. Board member Hamman reviewed HB 549 which created the Public Charter School law for the Board, and outlined next steps required of

Board members prior to the Special meeting scheduled for November 30th, where applicants will be interviewed. Action will be taken by the Board at the January 18-19, 2024, BPE meeting. Ms. Flynn noted that each school has been notified of the date for the meeting and the time at which their interview will take place. Ms. Flynn explained the process for the special meeting for Board members.

**Item10 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOL COMMISSION – 02:38:08
Trish Schreiber**

Ms. Trish Schreiber updated the Board on work the Commission has done to date, including members who have been appointed, adoption of Bylaws, and election of officers. Chair Schreiber noted that with the assistance of the BPE staff and Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), the state special revenue account and fund have been set up to receive donations for the Commission. Chair Schreiber gave special thanks to BPE staff for their assistance and support of the Commission’s work. Chair Schreiber noted that the Commission’s meeting dates are posted on the BPE website and meetings are open to the public.

*****TIME CERTAIN AT 4:00*****

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Item 11)**

**Item 11 ACTION ON APPEAL HEARING TO ADD AN ENDORSEMENT, BPE CASE
#2023-05, STONE – 02:54:32
Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel**

Mr. Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel, opened the item and reviewed the case for the Board. Mr. Vanisko turned the item over to Mr. Brenton Craggs, Attorney for the OPI who noted that Mr. Stone has provided new information to OPI, and that due to the presentation of this new evidence, OPI is requesting the Board remand the case back to OPI for review as an Unusual Case per ARM 10.57.109.

Board member Hedalen moved to remand BPE Case #2023-05 back to the Office of Public Instruction as an Unusual Case. Motion seconded by Board member Keith.

Board member Rassmussen asked if the Board was privy to the new information. Mr. Stone was present and stated that he had the information with him, and Mr. Stone provided Chair Tharp with the document. Chair Tharp reviewed the document for the Board, which was new information from the State of Alaska.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Hedalen thanked Mr. Stone for traveling to the meeting and Chair Tharp thanked Mr. Stone for his work in education.

Ms. Flynn reviewed the following days’ schedule for the Board.

Thursday, November 16, 2023
Missoula County Public Schools
8:30 AM

❖ **BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TOURS WITH LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Board members and members of the Education Interim Committee (EIC) toured Lowell Elementary School, Hellgate High School, and Sentinel High School during the morning before convening for a joint meeting which began at noon.

CALL TO ORDER – 00:00:10

Chair Tharp welcomed everyone back to the Missoula County Public Schools building and thanked the district staff for their excellent tours that morning. Chair Tharp announced that the Board will be meeting jointly with the Legislative Education Interim Committee to review legislation and educational tours.

Board members present: Board members present: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Ms. Susie Hedalen, Vice Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Jane Hamman. Ex-Officio members present: Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor’s Office. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guests: Dr. Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM); Dr. Tammy Elser, Salish Kootenai College (SKC); Dr. Doug Ruhman, SKC; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, University of Montana (UM); Mr. Doug Reisig, MQEC; Dr. Tricia Seifert, Montana State University (MSU); Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, MOFE; Mr. Alex Sakariassen, Montana Free Press; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Ms. Lisa Colon Durham, Educational Testing Services (ETS); Ms. Melanie Olmstead, OPI; Ms. Kimberly Evans, OPI; Ms. Jackie Ronning, OPI; Mr. Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel; Mr. Brenton Craggs, Attorney, OPI; Ms. Isabelle Welch; Superintendent Chad Johnson, Livingston Public Schools; Doug Rossberg, Title 1 Instructional Coach, Missoula County Public Schools; Dr. Laurie Barron, Superintendent, Evergreen School District; Dr. Christine Lux, Professor of Early Childhood Education, MSU; Colette Getten, Early Learning Family Center Administrator, Great Falls Public Schools; Senator Dan Salomon; Representative Sue Vinton; Representative Linda Reksten; Representative Melissa Romano; Senator Edie McClafferty; Representative John Fuller; Mr. Pad McCracken, Research Analyst; Ms. Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney.

❖ BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING – 00:00:11

The Board of Public Education met jointly with the EIC for a working lunch. The group reflected on the trip to Calgary that Board members Quinlan and Hedalen, and Executive Director Flynn participated in with the EIC where the group toured Bishop Carroll High School to see how the school uses proficiency-based learning. Members of the EIC shared with Board members the tour of Bonner School they took the previous day where they were able to see the reading program the school is using. EIC members shared with Board members some of the comments they received from teachers after the tour. The group reflected on the tours taken during the morning at Lowell Elementary, Hellgate High School, and Sentinel High School.

Ms. Flynn discussed work the Board has started towards implementing HB 352, Early Literacy Targeted Interventions, and noted that the Board will be hearing from a panel at their meeting later in the day from members of the Early Literacy Advisory Council.

Board member Hamman, Chair of the Charter School Committee, reviewed the work the Committee has done after receiving 26 applications for Public Charter Schools, 25 of which will be moving forward to the interview process. Board member Hamman noted that all 25 schools have been notified of their interview all of which are scheduled for November 30th, during a Special Meeting of the Board. Board member Hamman discussed how the applications are being reviewed by Board members. Senator Salomon noted his surprise at the number of applications. Board members and Legislators discussed the intent of the bill and pieces of the applications that should be considered, specifically that schools are doing something new and innovative.

Members briefly discussed the implementation of HB 562, Community Choice Schools, noting the Commission has been established and is moving forward.

Mr. Tyson Warner, Program Officer for the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center, updated the group on work taking place pertaining to the Democracy Youth Engagement Program.

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Items 12-13)**

Item 12 **ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT’S REQUEST TO REVISE TITLE 10, CHAPTER 56, ASSESSMENT STANDARDS AND PROPOSED TIMELINE – 00:59:30**
Cedar Rose

Ms. Cedar Rose requested the Board approve opening Title 10, Chapter 56, Assessment, and the proposed timeline.

Board member Keith moved on behalf of the Board Assessment Committee to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to revise Title 10, Chapter 56, Assessment Standards. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

Ms. Flynn reviewed the timeline for the Board.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 13 **INITIAL REVIEW AND WORK SESSION OF EARLY LITERACY ADVISORY COUNCIL’S RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTION RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTION STANDARDS – 01:02:39**
McCall Flynn, BPE; Doug Rossberg, Title 1 Instructional Coach, Missoula County Public Schools; Dr. Laurie Barron, Superintendent, Evergreen School District; Dr. Christine Lux, Professor of Early Childhood Education, Montana State University; Colette Getten, Early Learning Family Center Administrator, Great Falls Public Schools

Executive Director Flynn explained the purpose of the panel for Board members before reviewing recommendations from the Council that are contained in the draft rule notice. Members of the panel introduced themselves to the Board, and Assessment Chair Keith began the Q&A session of the panel members. At the conclusion of the Q&A session, Ms. Flynn reviewed the report written by the Committee and answered Board members questions.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Susie Hedalen (Items 14-19)**

Item 14 **INFORMATION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ABCTe AS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM – 02:12:14**
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

Dr. Julie Murgel opened the item and requested Ms. Melanie Olmstead, American Board Certification for Teachers (ABCTe) review the ABCTe program, how teachers are certified, and what type of individuals enroll in the program. Ms. Olmstead discussed the areas of training the program offers to future teachers, and the pedagogical and training required before answering Board members questions. Dr. Murgel noted additional information will be provided to the Board about this program at the January 2024 meeting. Vice Chair Hedalen thanked Senator Salomon for the letter he provided to the Board supporting the alternative credential program.

Item 15 **INITIAL REVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, EDUCATOR LICENSURE STANDARDS – 02:30:55**
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

Dr. Julie Murgel and Ms. Crystal Andrews reviewed the proposed revisions to Chapter 57 by leading the Board through the document and discussing the proposed revisions for each section. Dr. Murgel and Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions regarding the proposed revisions and reasons why some

revisions are being requested. Dr. Murgel noted this item will be an action item at the January meeting to begin the rulemaking process.

Item 16 ACTION ON PRAXIS TEST SCORE FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE – 03:13:18

Crystal Andrews, Lisa Colon Durham

Ms. Crystal Andrews explained the review process for the English as a Second Language (ESL) test score. The American Sign Language review process is not complete at this time and will be brought forward at the January 2024 Board meeting. Ms. Lisa Colon Durham, ETS, described the ESL PRAXIS test for Board members and Ms. Andrews reviewed the process which led to determining a score of 155 and the groups that participated in the process. Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions.

Board member Hedalen moved to approve adding English as a Second Language (ESL) with a qualifying score of 155 to the PRAXIS content area test. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 17 ACTION ON INITIAL APPROVAL OF THE SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT K-12 READING ENDORSEMENT FOR A MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM – 03:23:33

Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

Dr. Julie Murgel reviewed the request from Salish Kootenai College (SKC) to implement a K-12 Reading endorsement for a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Murgel noted SKC has submitted all the necessary documentation to OPI for this request, and that preliminary approval will allow SKC to grant certification to 13 students who have completed the program. Dr. Murgel stated that OPI will complete an onsite visit at a future date. Dr. Doug Ruhman, Dean of the College of Education at SKC provided a brief overview of the program and Dr. Tammy Elser provided additional information and context for the Board about the program. Dr. Ruhman and Dr. Elser answered Board member questions, and members applauded the work done for this program.

Board member Hedalen moved to approve the Salish Kootenai College request to implement a K-12 Reading Endorsement for a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.
No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

*****TIME CERTAIN AT 3:45PM*****

Item 18 ACTION ON MOTION TO DISMISS DUE TO SURRENDER IN BPE CASE #2023-02, CLIFF – 03:45:19

Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel

Mr. Chad Vanisko opened the item for the Board reviewing the revocation request from Superintendent Arntzen and noted that since the request was sent by the Superintendent, and the Board completed the Initial Review, the educator has surrendered his license. Mr. Vanisko turned the item over to Mr. Brenton Craggs who reviewed the reasons the Superintendent requested revoking the license. Mr. Craggs noted that OPI received the signed affidavit of surrender in September and requested the Board dismiss the case.

Board member Hedalen moved to approve the Motion to Dismiss due to surrender in BPE Case #2023-02, Cliff. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

echoed those concerns. Board member Rasmussen asked Representative Bedey if other states have fee structures like the requirements in HB 403. Representative Bedey noted that structures are different across states, and it is difficult to compare, but noted that his understanding of the Superintendent's proposal is that it is specific to the costs of the licensing system. Mr. Phillips assured the Board that the costs are specifically contained to the costs of funding licensure fee activities, and do not reflect funding other portions of the system.

Chair Tharp asked Ms. Flynn to display a potential proposal created by the Board Licensure Committee for an alternative fee structure depending upon the type of license. Chair Tharp asked Representative Bedey if the proposed structure would be acceptable per HB 403, and Representative Bedey stated it would. Vice Chair Hedalen gave remarks regarding the proposal presented, adding that the proposal from the Superintendent needed more work and that she believed the only option is to wait for a new proposal from the Superintendent. Board Chair Tharp asked Representative Bedey if the Board can set their own fee structure and Representative Bedey stated that the Superintendent has provided a proposal but at the end of the day it is the Board's responsibility to set the fee, and that it would be within the parameters of the law for the Board to set their own fee structure. Representative Bedey noted that he never imagined a situation where the Board would need to establish the fee structure and not approve the Superintendent's proposal.

Chair Tharp moved to accept the fee schedule as proposed by the Board licensure Committee. Motion seconded by Board member Hamman.

Board member Rasmussen asked when most educators begin renewing licenses and if that gave the Board latitude. Ms. Flynn stated the Board must approve a fee structure by December 1. Chair Tharp noted licenses cannot be renewed more than six months prior to the license expiration date.

Vice Chair Hedalen noted that the Board has two Special Meetings scheduled in November and that one of those meetings is available for the Superintendent to bring forward a new proposal.

Board member Hamman discussed her previous experience setting licensure fees for other Boards and commented that the Licensure Committee's fee structure should be adopted.

Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher gave public comment on behalf of their members expressing concern that teachers are shouldering the burden of funding the licensing system, and asked what measures OPI could take to make budget cuts in other areas.

Ms. Casey Ballou encouraged the Board to consider waiting for a new proposal from the Superintendent, and allow public comment on the proposal from the Licensure Committee.

Dr. Rob Watson thanked the Board for their work on this topic, and commented on the proposal from the Superintendent as contained in the Board packet. Dr. Watson stated his understanding that for other licensing professions, the fees are required to be set according to the work it takes to license that profession, and asked if it truly takes seven and a half times more work to license an Administrator than a teacher, which is the fee structure contained in the Superintendent's proposal. Dr. Watson gave comments pertaining to the number of individuals who hold Class 3 Licenses in Montana.

Mr. Phillips stated that if the Board chooses to send the proposal back to the Superintendent, they will work to create a proposal that complies with the law but noted that the Superintendent is steadfast in not increasing teacher licensure fees.

No further discussion. Motion passed with Board member Hedalen dissenting.

❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 23-27)**

**Item 23 ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT’S REQUEST TO REVISE TITLE 10, CHAPTER 55, HEALTH AND SCIENCE PROGRAM DELIVERY STANDARDS AND PROPOSED TIMELINE – 01:35:30
Dr. Julie Murgel and Marie Judisch**

Board member Quinlan welcomed Dr. Julie Murgel to share any comments with the Board regarding the request from the Superintendent to revise Title 10, Chapter 55, Health and Science Program Delivery Standards and the proposed timeline. Dr. Murgel explained the proposed revisions for the Board and explained the Chapter 53 Content Standards are not being revised, only the Program Delivery Standards contained in Chapter 55. Board member Quinlan noted that the Accreditation Committee met to review the proposal and discussed the role of the administrative rules and how they are to work with language in the statute. Chair Quinlan noted that statutory changes were made in the 2021 Legislative Session and that the Montana School Boards Association has already created policies to address these changes. The recommendation from the Board Accreditation Committee is that the proposed revisions are unnecessary and are not the role of the Board. Board member Rasmussen asked when these sections of rule are scheduled for review, and member Quinlan noted the next review is Fall 2026 and are scheduled every five years thereafter.

Board member Quinlan moved to deny the request by the Superintendent to revise Title 10, Chapter 55, Health and Science Program Delivery Standards and proposed timeline. Motion seconded by Board member Keith.

Public comment from Ms. Casey Ballou thanking the Board for the recommendation and explained that school boards use the model policies from MTSBA, and districts ensure these policies are updated per legislation.

Public comment from Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher expressing her appreciation for the work the Board did reviewing MTSBA model policies.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 24 ACTION ON VARIANCE TO STANDARDS INITIAL REQUESTS AND RENEWALS – 01:46:52
Ellery Bresler and Crystal Andrews**

Ms. Ellery Bresler presented the 2023-2024 school year requests for Variance to Standards initial requests and renewals. The Variance to Standards Board met in October and reviewed five initial requests, approving four, as well as two requests for renewal. Ms. Bresler reviewed the four initial requests approved by the Variance to Standards Board.

Board member Quinlan moved to approve the four initial applications for Variance to Standards. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bresler reviewed the two renewal requests for Variance to Standards.

Anne Keith

Board member Keith reviewed the panel that convened the previous day to discuss the proposed revisions recommended by the Early Literacy Advisory Council pertaining to rulemaking for Early Literacy Targeted Interventions. Ms. Flynn reviewed the process and answered Board member questions.

Board member Keith moved to approve the proposed Notice of Public Hearing and Timeline Pertaining to Rulemaking in ARM Title 10, Chapter 54, Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Standards, and Authorize 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.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, January 18-19, 2024, Helena, MT – 02:15:36

Exiting Board Member – Last Meeting and Recognition

OCHE Math Presentation

Perkins Program Update

Review MSDB Superintendent Contract Extension (2026)

MACIE Update

Review individual Community Choice Schools' Annual Reports

Transportation Report

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Accreditation Report

Teacher Licensure Report

Qualify Transformational Learning & Advanced Opportunity Grant Applications

Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program Report

Content Standards Revision Update

MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation

PUBLIC COMMENT – 02:16:24

Public comment from Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher pertaining to the proposal from the Superintendent to approve ABCTe as an Alternative Credentialing program. Ms. Murnane Butcher noted particular concern with ensuring Indian Education for All and Special Education are addressed. Ms. Murnane Butcher also discussed areas of concern for the Board to consider when reviewing the Public Charter School applications.

Public comment from Dr. Rob Watson pertaining to work that SAM is doing that involves the Board, particularly webinars offered by SAM that Board members are invited to attend. Dr. Watson reviewed previous webinars around Artificial Intelligence, Accreditation, and more. Dr. Watson thanked Ms. Flynn for including administrators on the Early Literacy Advisory Council, and discussed the new program at SAM, Aspiring Administrators Cohort, and the Learning 2025 Cohort, of which the MSDB is taking part in. Dr. Watson announced that SAM is the recipient of a Health Care Practice Grant, which will allow SAM to look at School Based Mental Health services and how to implement best practices for schools regarding Mental Health services.

Chair Tharp acknowledged Board staff in organizing the meeting and thanked them for their work, as well as the Missoula County Public Schools and the Phylliss J. Washington School of Education staff and leadership.

Chair Tharp reviewed the upcoming Special Meetings on November 27 and November 30, and the regularly scheduled meeting January 18-19, 2024, in Helena.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:57AM

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.