

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

September 14-15, 2023
Miles Community College, Lucas Hall, Room 106
2715 Dickinson, Miles City, MT

Thursday, September 14, 2023
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Julie Balsam 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. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Anne Keith; Dr. Ron Slinger; Ms. Jane Hamman; Mr. Gavin Mow, Student Representative. Ex-officio members present: Superintendent Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI); Dr. Angela McLean, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE); 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. Julie Murgel, OPI; Ms. Cedar Rose, OPI; Ms. Marie Judisch, OPI; Mr. Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel; Dr. Tricia Seifert, Montana State University (MSU); Dr. Dan Lee, University of Montana (UM); Ms. Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE); Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE); Ms. Mary Heller, OPI; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM ; Dr. Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM); Mr. Sam Giordanango, Miles Community College (MCC); Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Ms. Krystal Smith, OPI; Mr. Chris Sinrud, OPI; Mr. Zam Alidina; Mr. Jay Phillips, OPI; Mr. Rob Stutz, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Legal Counsel, OPI;

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment from Mr. Sam Giordanango, MCC.

Dr. Tricia Seifert, Dean, College of Education at MSU gave the Board an update on work regarding proficiency-based learning ongoing at MSU.

Superintendent Martha Potter, Savage Public Schools, gave public comments on engaging students with Foreign Languages and the possibility of using Babble for foreign language instruction. Babble will reach out to the OPI to discuss the possibility of this becoming a possible avenue for Foreign Language instruction to students.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Hamman moved that Item E, Strategic Plan, be pulled from the Consent Agenda and scheduled for a future meeting. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

Comment from Superintendent Arntzen who recommended having parent engagement goals added to the Strategic Plan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Flynn discussed several changes made to the Board calendar for 2024 and the Bylaws before the Board acted on the Consent Agenda.

Board member Hamman moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Item E pulled. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Board member Keith.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ REPORTS – Madalyn Quinlan (Items 1-6)

Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT Madalyn Quinlan

Chair Quinlan thanked Dr. Slinger and his staff for hosting the Board on the campus of MCC. The Board enjoyed dinner with the Southeast Montana Association of School Superintendents (SEMASS), MCC Board, and attended the rodeo the previous evening. Dr. Slinger thanked everyone for traveling to MCC, and noted the excitement of the SEMASS, before briefly discussing programs at MCC. Chair Quinlan discussed the bi-monthly meeting of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) that she and Board member Rasmussen attended and stated that MSDB has completed their labor negotiations. Chair Quinlan discussed the work Mr. Chad Vanisko, Board Legal Counsel, and the Board Licensure committee completed to create the Hearing Information and Protocol document. Chair Quinlan discussed other Board committee meetings that have taken place since the July meeting, and thanked Board members Keith and Hamman for their work on the Teacher of the Year committee. The Chair reviewed a meeting held with the Board Executive Committee, Governor's Office, and Community Choice Schools Commission Chair Trish Schreiber for work related to HB 562, Community Choice Schools. The Chair thanked Executive Director Flynn for her hard work, organization, and commitment to the Board.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT McCall Flynn

Ms. McCall Flynn thanked the Board for their work in committee meetings to assist the Board staff in the implementation of the new laws passed by the Legislature which pertain to the Board. Ms. Flynn discussed her presentations before the Education Interim Committee meeting Monday and Tuesday earlier this week, and a meeting held with Community Choice Schools Commission Chair Trish Schreiber to assist the Commission on organizing their first meeting.

Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen presented her report to the Board discussing the meeting of the 2024 Teacher of the Year committee, noting that the committee has selected a recipient for the award which will be announced in October. Superintendent Arntzen discussed ongoing work at the OPI to implement legislation passed during the 2023 Legislative Session pertaining to OPI.

Ms. Cedar Rose, Assessment Director, presented the new State Assessment Results to the Board, discussing improvements, declines, and test results. Ms. Rose answered Board member questions.

Ms. Krystal Smith presented a report on the Montana Alternative Student Testing (MAST) program announcing that the Department of Education has approved a waiver which allows MAST students to opt

out of the Smarter Balanced Test and use the MAST in its place. Ms. Smith discussed in greater detail different testlets contained in MAST and answered Board member questions.

Mr. Chris Sinrud opened the Data Modernization Update Report to the Board. Mr. Zam Aldina, Project Manager, gave an overview of the project for the Board. Mr. Sinrud discussed the costs of the project and offered to bring Power School in for a demonstration to the Board at a future meeting about what the product will look like.

Dr. Julie Murgel gave the Board an update on ESSER funds, including how the money has been disbursed as well as how funds have been spent.

Ms. Marie Judisch updated the Board on the progress made to date on the Content Standards Revision work. Ms. Judisch walked the Board through where to locate information on the OPI website for all the Content Standards Revisions before updating the Board on each Content Area being revised and discussed where each area is in the revisions process.

Ms. Mary Heller updated the Board on the Montana Ready Initiative, discussing progress being made and how the program is working to assist students to find the best career pathway for them. Ms. Heller discussed work that Career Coaches are doing to assist students and take some work off School Counselors in this area of career guidance for students.

Ms. Krystal Smith updated the Board on the 2023-2024 Teacher Residency Placements across the state in schools.

Ms. Crystal Andrews announced that a second Accreditation Specialist has been hired at the OPI. The Criterion Reference Guide will be distributed to school districts October 1, and Ms. Andrews showed Board members where to locate the information on the OPI website.

Mr. Jay Phillips discussed HB 403 and the recommendations from the Superintendent for setting teacher licensure fees. The law dictates that OPI have a fee structure to the Board by September 2023 for later action by the Board. Chair Quinlan noted that this item will be referred to committee for review, then action will be taken by the Board at the November meeting. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Andrews answered Board member questions.

Public comment from Dr. Rob Watson, SAM, regarding the recommendation for licensing fees for Administrators.

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

Dr. Angela McLean updated the Board on College Application Week to be held in October, Montana's Future at Work Awards and upcoming summit in Red Lodge, and Ed Design Labs for 2-year campuses to design programs that can be obtained in under two years. Dr. McLean noted she would like to bring this to the Board at a future meeting.

Item 5 **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT**
Dylan Klapmeier

Mr. Klapmeier announced to the Board that the Governor is currently on his "Back to School Tour", Sarah Swanson has been appointed the new Commissioner at Labor and Industry, and that he has been working with the Board to support and establish the Community Choice Commission and the new Montana Digital Academy Board. Mr. Klapmeier asked if there are any topics for the Board of Education meeting in November to please let him or Executive Director Flynn know.

Votes were taken and Ms. Hedalen was elected Vice Chair unanimously.

Board members thanked Chair Quinlan for her work as Chair over the past year and for the job she has done.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 3:47 PM.

Friday, September 15, 2023
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Julie Balsam took Roll Call. The Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chair; Dr. Tim Tharp; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Jane Hamman; Dr. Ron Slinger; Mr. Gavin Mow, Student Representative. Ex Officio members present: Dr. Angela McLean, OCHE; Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor’s Office. Staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guests present: Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Dr. Tricia Seifert, MSU; Ms. Crystal Andrews, OPI; Superintendent Furthmyre, MSDB; Ms. Amanda Curtis, MFPE; Dr. Dan Lee, UM; Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM; Dr. Jason Neiffer, Montana Digital Academy (MTDA); Ms. Katie Madsen, OPI; Mr. Patrick Cates, OPI.

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE (cont.) – Susie Hedalen (Items 16-18)

Item 16 UPDATE ON PRAXIS TEST REVIEW AND SCORES
Crystal Andrews

Ms. Crystal Andrews presented an update on the PRAXIS test review and scores for test number 5362 English Language Speakers and American Sign Language (ASL) which does not have a test number yet. Ms. Andrews reviewed the process for reviewing the exams and a timeline for review and approval by the Board. Ms. Andrews clarified that the ASL exam is for an elective for a World Language and not for sign language interpreting. Ms. Andrews noted the Board will be asked to act on this item at the November meeting, before answering Board members’ questions.

Item 17 ACTION ON SUPERINTENDENT’S REQUEST TO REVISE TITLE 10,
CHAPTER 57 – EDUCATOR LICENSURE STANDARDS AND BOARD
LICENSURE COMMITTEE PROPOSED TIMELINE
Dr. Julie Murgel, Crystal Andrews

Dr. Julie Murgel reviewed for the Board the information presented at the July Board meeting where OPI requested the Board reopen ARM Title 10, Chapter 57, Educator Licensure to update the 2022 revisions. Dr. Murgel reviewed the areas being requested for review and explained the revisions. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed revisions.

Board member Tharp moved to approve the requested areas listed in the Board packet for the revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 57, with the exception of the request for for revisions pertaining to HB 458. Motion seconded by Board member Slinger.

Public comment from Ms. Kristi Steinberg, UM, thanking the Board for opening the Chapter and cleaning up some of the language. Ms. Steinberg offered her assistance with the revisions and expressed concerns regarding the proposed

changes to Middle School programs and Internships programs related to School Counselors. Ms. Steinberg noted her appreciation for reviewing the master's degree program for Class 3 Licenses, and revisions to Class 5 Licenses for Counselors.

Discussion ensued regarding Middle School programs and out of state applicants who hold a Middle School endorsement with a content specific area, and the issues that creates since that type of endorsement on a license does not exist in Montana.

Board member Hamman made comments regarding Middle School programs and that she thinks some of the proposed language is too specific and would like more flexibility.

Discussion ensued about whether a definition for Career Coaches is necessary, or if any definition is necessary, given that there is now a definition in statute, based on passage of HB 458.

Board member Rasmussen made comments regarding 4-8 endorsements vs. K-8 endorsements, and how a 4-8 endorsement would affect rural schools.

Dr. Tricia Seifert, MSU, made comments regarding 10.57.424, and 10.57.410.

Board member Hamman moved to amend the motion to include the request for revisions pertaining to the passage of HB 458. No second. Motion fails.

Original motion still on the floor.

No further discussion. Original motion passes with Board members Rasmussen and Hamman dissenting.

Ms. McCall Flynn reviewed the timeline proposed by the Board Licensure Committee. Chair Quinlan stated that May 2024 is the proposed approval date for the proposed revisions.

Board member Hamman asked Dr. Murgel if Career Coaches will still be reviewed given the previous motion and Dr. Murgel noted that it would not, but that the definition in statute remains in place and covers the issue.

Board member Tharp moved to approve the Board Licensure Committee's recommendation on the proposed timeline to the revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 57. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 18

EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REPORT

Dr. Julie Murgel, Crystal Andrews

Dr. Julie Murgel presented the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) Report as required in Chapter 58. Dr. Murgel reviewed the report for the Board discussing the ten Epp's in the state and gave an overview to the Board discussing state only accredited schools, joint accredited schools, the accreditation review cycle, the upcoming review cycle, programs, and endorsement areas offered at the EPPs, and what endorsement areas students are enrolling in and graduating with. Dr. Murgel answered Board member questions.

Item 21 **ANNUAL MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY REPORT**
Dr. Jason Neiffer

Dr. Jason Neiffer presented the annual MTDA Report, highlighting enrollment numbers, a student satisfaction survey, HB 749, new Digital Academy Board, the EdReady program, and upcoming features to the MTDA. Dr. Neiffer concluded his report by speaking about Artificial Intelligence in education and addressed Board member questions.

Item 22 **ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT**
Patrick Cates

Mr. Patrick Cates introduced himself to the Board and presented the Annual Special Education Report. Mr. Cates highlighted specific areas in the report including the percentage of students with disabilities in Montana schools, a 12% increase in students with disabilities, a clarification in the multiple disabilities category, Special Education Cooperatives, and achievement and graduation rates for students with disabilities.

Item 23 **ANNUAL HISET REPORT**
Katie Madsen

Ms. Katie Madsen presented the Annual HiSET Report to the Board. Ms. Madsen noted that preliminary testing data was just provided to the OPI. There has been a transition from one vendor to another which has resulted in some customer service difficulties. Ms. Madsen announced that moving forward the General Education Diploma (GED) will also be offered in Montana in addition to HiSET for students seeking their high school diploma credentials. Ms. Madsen updated the Board on statewide completion rates, number of tests taken, passing rates, and demographic breakdown, noting an increase in the sixteen- to eighteen-year-old age group completing their HiSET. Ms. Madsen answered Board member questions.

Ms. Flynn reviewed the upcoming November meeting noting that the meeting will be held over three days beginning at the Missoula Public School Administration Building and ending on Friday at the University of Montana campus followed by the Board of Education meeting the afternoon of Friday the 17th.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS November 15-17, 2023, Missoula, MT

Montana Council of Deans of Education Update

MACIE Update

OCHE Math Presentation

Assessment Update

Federal Update

Annual Data Collection

Variance to Standards Requests & Renewals

Accreditation Report

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update (Odd Years)

Annual Renewal Unit Providers List

MSDB Superintendent Performance Evaluation & Contract Extension Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 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.