



**MONTANA
COMMUNITY
CHOICE SCHOOLS**

Community Choice Schools Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2026

Zoom Webinar

Call to Order – (Recording Time Stamp) 00:00:48

Chair Schreiber called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Chair led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance, Cathy Kincheloe took Roll Call, and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Commission members present: Trish Schreiber, Chair; Jon Rutt, Vice Chair; Chip Lindenlaub, Treasurer; Mark Hufstetler, Dr. Katey Franklin, Taylor Ramos; Barbara Forrester-Frank; Commission Director of Planning, Cathy Kincheloe; Board of Public Education (Board) staff present: McCall Flynn, Executive Director, and Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist.

Guests: Lea Ann Munkres, Rain Turcotte.

Public Comment – 00:02:47

None offered.

Item 1 **Approve Consent Agenda** – 00:03:34

Member Ramos moved to approve the Consent Agenda containing the February 18, 2026 Minutes. Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda – 00:04:28

Member Lindenlaub moved to adopt the agenda for April 22, 2026. Motion seconded by Member Hufstetler.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 **Chairperson Welcome Statement** - 00:05:11

Chair Schreiber welcomed attendees and thanked Members for taking the time to contribute to the important work in today's meeting. She also encouraged the public to make comments.

Item 3 **Discussion and Business:** – 00:06:20

- 1) Legal counsel review of special education policy compliance.

Chair Schreiber moved to direct funds to legal counsel for review of the Commission's Special Education model policy.

Motion seconded by Member Hufstetler.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comments offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

2) Authorizing Authorizers Policy

Chair Schreiber called for a motion..

Member Lindenlaub moved to adopt the Authorizing Authorizers Policy.

Motion seconded by Member Schreiber.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

3) Pre-Approved Standardized Assessments

Chair Schreiber called for a motion..

Member Rutt moved to approve the Pre-Approved Standardized Assessments.

Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

4) Standardized Assessment Administration Plan Requirements

Chair Schreiber called for a motion..

Member Rutt moved to adopt the Standardized Assessment Administration Plan Requirements.

Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

5) Proposed Choice School Application Refinements

Chair Schreiber called for a motion..

Member Lindenlaub moved to adopt the Proposed Choice School Application Refinements.

Motion seconded by Member Hufstetler.

Member Forrester-Frank moved to amend the motion to adopt the Proposed Choice School Application Refinements with Indian Education for All moved from Section VIII, Optional Supplemental Information, to the Required Section III, Academic Program and Performance.
Amended motion seconded by Member Franklin.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Amendment failed by a vote of 2 in favor, 5 opposed.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Main Motion passed to adopt the Proposed Choice School Application Refinements as presented by a vote of 5 in favor, 2 opposed.

6) Choice School Performance Framework Refinements

Chair Schreiber called for a motion.

***Member Rutt made a motion to adopt the Choice School Performance Framework refinements.
Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.***

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

7) Choice School Contract Refinements

Chair Schreiber called for a motion.

***Member Lindenlaub made a motion to adopt the Choice School Contract refinements.
Motion seconded by Member Hufstetler.***

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

8) Collaborative Goal Setting Policy

Chair Schreiber called for a motion.

***Member Rutt made a motion to adopt the Collaborative Goal Setting Policy.
Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.***

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

9) Background Check Policy

Chair Schreiber called for a motion.

***Chair Schreiber made a motion to adopt the Background Check Policy.
Motion seconded by Member Rutt.***

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 Reports – 1:20:20

Member Lindenlaub presented the **Treasurer Report** detailing the revenue and expenditures since the last report with a remaining budget in the Commission's general fund of \$20,296.20. In the 2025 grant fund approximately \$31,000 remains which will go into a retainer for needed legal policy. An additional \$200,000 is now available from the 2026 grant.

In the **Fundraising Subcommittee Report**, Taylor Ramos reported on a plan for a fundraising campaign to support Special Education policy compliance.

In the **Director of Planning Report** Cathy Kincheloe updated the Commission on policy, public relations, and administrative work. With the policies approved at this meeting, the Commission is fully prepared with all policy for Choice Schools and local school district authorizers. The next phase of work is building out the start-up year workshops and resources. Director Kincheloe shared that she had presented to the Education Interim Committee and Education Budget Interim Committees as well as the Board of Public Education in their regular meetings. The Commission is now approved by the U.S. Government to apply for federal grants, permitting the potential application for the Charter School Program grant when the time is right to apply.

Item 6 Board of Public Education Executive Director Report and Discussion – 01:31:41

Executive Director McCall Flynn walked the Commission through the Board of Public Education’s annual agenda calendar, highlighting various topics of importance and how it all informs the BPE’s legislative work.

Public Comment – 01:52:44

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at - 01:54:10