

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

May 21-22, 2026
Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
3911 Central Ave
Great Falls, MT

Thursday, May 21, 2026
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance led by MSDB Visually Impaired Students and Music Performance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Welcome Visitors

PUBLIC COMMENT

This time will be provided for public comment on items not listed on the agenda. This meeting is open to the public both in person and electronically. For those wishing to give virtual public comment, please contact bpe@mt.gov to request the Zoom link for the meeting. Members of the public who have joined virtually on Zoom may "raise their hand" at the appropriate time to participate after being recognized by the Board Chair. Members of the public who wish to share written public comment with the Board members must submit written public comment to the Executive Director at bpe@mt.gov no later than two (2) business days before the start of the meeting. Any written public comment received after this deadline will be shared with the Board members after the meeting. All written public comment will be included as part of the official public record.

Action may be taken on any item listed on the Board agenda. Per §2-3-103, MCA, the Board encourages public comment on any item prior to Board final action.

CONSENT AGENDA – page #9

(Items may be pulled from Consent Agenda upon request)

- A. March 19-20, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- B. Financials

ADOPT AGENDA

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-5)

- Item 1 CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #26
Dr. Tim Tharp
 - Welcome New Board Member
- Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #27
McCall Flynn
- Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – 1 Hour, page #28
State Superintendent Susie Hedalen
 - Content Standards Update
 - Assessment Update
 - Accreditation Update
 - Federal Update
- Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #41
Dr. Angela McLean

Item 5 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #43**
Lydia Comstock

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Julia Maxwell (Item 6)**

Item 6 **MACIE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #44**
Jordann Lankford Forster

❖ **MSDB COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Item 7)**

Item 7 **MSDB REPORT – 1 Hour, page #46**
Superintendent Paul Furthmyre

- **Presentation on Belt Canes**
- **Presentation on Cottage Next Year**
- **Presentation on Journey of a Learner**

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Action on Out of State Travel Request**
- **Action on Personnel Items**
- **Action on Golden Triangle Curriculum Consortium Membership**
- **Action on MHS A Dues and Fees**

*******LUNCH WITH MSDB STAFF AND FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS*******
****Lunch will be provided for Board members****

*******RECONVENE AT 1:00PM*******

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 8-13)**

Item 8 **ACTION ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM**
GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION REQUEST – 10 Minutes, page #123
Crystal Andrews

Item 9 **INFORMATION ON THE SITE VISIT AND STATE EXIT REPORT OF THE CARROLL**
COLLEGE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION – 10 Minutes, page #129
Crystal Andrews

Item 10 **INFORMATION ON THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER ACCREDITATION**
HANDBOOK – 10 Minutes, page #161
Crystal Andrews

Item 11 **INFORMATION ON PRAXIS ITEMS – 15 Minutes, page #196**
Crystal Andrews

- **Math – Middle School**
- **English Language Arts – Middle School**
- **Social Studies – Middle School**
- **Science – Middle School**
- **Physical Education**
- **Health**

Item 12 **REVIEW OF CLASS 8 LICENSURE PROPOSAL – 15 Minutes, page #204**
Dr. Ron Slinger

Item 13 **DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR**
PREPARATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – 15 Minutes, page #207
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Items 14-15)

- Item 14 **INFORMATION ON THE ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR NEW AND REOPENING PUBLIC SCHOOLS – 15 Minutes, page #217**
Crystal Andrews
 - Basin Elementary – Reinstatement
 - Creston 7-8 – Preliminary
 - Martinsdale Colony – Preliminary
 - Meadow Lane Colony – Preliminary

- Item 15 **INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULES FOR REVIEWING THE ACCREDITATION STATUS OF EACH SCHOOL – STUDENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS – 30 Minutes, page #222**
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews

❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Item 16)

- Item 16 **INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON MODIFICATIONS TO THE SINGLE SYSTEM OF STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT – MATH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – 30 Minutes, page #233**
Dr. Julie Murgel and Cedar Rose

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

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

- Item 17 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – 30 Minutes, page #267**
Dr. Tim Tharp

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

RECESS

❖ BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

4:00PM MSDB STUDENT COUNCIL CHALLENGE

Friday, May 22, 2026
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance led by MSDB Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students and Music Performance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Welcome Visitors

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 18)

- Item 18 **ACTION ON THE K-12 SCHOOL PAYMENT SCHEDULE – 15 Minutes, page #269**
Autumn Warren

❖ CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Items 19-23)

- Item 19 **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS COMMISSION – 15 Minutes, page #272**
Cathy Kincheloe
- Item 20 **UPDATE ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SITE VISITS AND BASIC ENTITLEMENTS – 15 Minutes, page #288**
McCall Flynn

- Item 21 **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL DOCUMENTS – 15 Minutes, page #290**
McCall Flynn
- Application
 - Evaluation Criteria
- Item 22 **INFORMATION AND ACTION ON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION PROCESS – 15 Minutes, page #302**
McCall Flynn
- Item 23 **REVIEW PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS – 15 Minutes, page #305**
McCall Flynn
- ❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 24-25)**
- Item 24 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TIMELINE PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, EDUCATOR LICENSURE STANDARDS AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 5 Minutes, page #322**
Dr. Ron Slinger
- Item 25 **ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON THE ANNUAL AND FILING FEE AMOUNTS FOR THE CLASS 9 SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICIAN LICENSE – 15 Minutes, page #332**
Crystal Andrews
- ❖ **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Items 26-29)**
- Item 26 **ACTION ON WAIVING THE DEFICIENCY DEVIATION IN ARM 10.55.605 FOR NONLICENSED OR MISASSIGNED DUAL CREDIT EDUCATORS – 15 Minutes, page #335**
Dr. Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews
- Item 27 **ACTION ON REINSTATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR REOPENING BASIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – 5 Minutes, page #338**
Crystal Andrews
- Item 28 **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULES FOR REVIEWING THE ACCREDITATION STATUS OF EACH SCHOOL – 15 Minutes, page #340**
Crystal Andrews
- Item 29 **ACTION ON THE ACCREDITATION STATUS OF ALL SCHOOLS – 15 Minutes, page #365**
Crystal Andrews
- ❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Item 30)**
- Item 30 **ACTION ON LISTING THE SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS ON MODIFICATIONS TO THE SINGLE SYSTEM OF STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT – MATH AND ENGLISH LANGAUGE ART AS AN ACTION ITEM ON THE JULY BOARD MEETING AGENDA – 15 Minutes, page #367**
Renee Rasmussen

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS July 22-24, 2026, Helena, MT
Joint MACIE Meeting and Tribal Consultation
Strategic Planning Meeting
MACIE Update

Action on MSDB/Golden Triangle Co-op
Indian Education for All Report
Assessment Update
Federal Update
OPI Staffing Report
Accreditation Report
Content Standards Revision Update

PUBLIC COMMENT

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ADJOURN

The Montana Board of Public Education is a Professional Development Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting either in person or via Zoom 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, kmstockton@mt.gov, 406-444-0302.

*******LUNCH BREAK*******
****Lunch will be provided for Board Members****

❖ **BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING – Dr. Tim Tharp**

- 12:15PM DISCUSSION ON GOALS AND INITIAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CONT.**
- 1:15PM DISCUSS MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
- 2:00PM WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS**