

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

September 24-25, 2026
Dawson County High School, Auditorium
900 N Merrill Ave
Glendive, MT

Thursday, September 24, 2026
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- 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. July 22-24, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- B. Financials

ADOPT AGENDA

❖ REPORTS – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 1-5)

- Item 1 **CHAIRPERSON REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #23**
Dr. Tim Tharp
 - Welcome from Superintendent Stephen Schreiber, Glendive Public Schools
 - Board Committee Assignments**ACTION ITEMS:**
 - Bylaws
 - 2027 Meeting Calendar and Agenda
- Item 2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #30**
McCall Flynn
- Item 3 **STATE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – 1 Hour, page #32**
State Superintendent Susie Hedalen
 - Assessment Update
 - Federal Update

- Intensive Assistance Update
- Content Standards Update
- Accreditation Update
- Annual Special Education Report

Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #64
Dr. Angela McLean

Item 5 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #67
Lydia Comstock

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 6-7)

Item 6 INFORMATION AND REVIEW OF MONTANA SCHOOL BUS STANDARDS
RULEMAKING – 30 Minutes, page #68
Dr. Tim Tharp

Item 7 ANNUAL MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY REPORT – 45 Minutes, page #226
Dr. Jason Neiffer

❖ BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TOURS & ACTIVITIES

12:00PM LUNCH WITH DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Dawson County High School

12:45PM VISIT ART CLASS
Dawson County High School

1:45PM COMMUNITY MURAL TOUR
Glendive Community

*****RECONVENE AT 2:30PM*****

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Dr. Hannah Nieskens (Items 8-9)

Item 8 ACTION ON THE CORRECTIVE PLANS FOR SCHOOLS IN DEFICIENT STATUS FOR
ACCREDITATION – 30 Minutes, page #229
Crystal Andrews

- Lame Deer High School
- Stanford K-12 Schools

Item 9 ACTION ON PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION REQUESTS – 15 Minutes, page #260
Dr. Hannah Nieskens

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Items 10-16)

Item 10 ACTION TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE THE CLASS 7 LICENSURE CRITERIA
FOR THE LITTLE SHELL TRIBE – 15 Minutes, page #263
Matthew Bell

Item 11 UPDATE ON THE DAWSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARAPATHWAYS
PARTNERSHIP – 15 Minutes, page #267
Patrick Cates; Nick Staffileno, Dawson Community College; Val Hafele, Glendive
Special Education Director

Item 12 ACTION ON THE DRAFT COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR
PREPARATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – 15 Minutes, page #270
Dr. Julie Murgel, Crystal Andrews

Item 13 **ACTION ON THE STATE EXIT REPORT AND REGULAR ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR STONE CHILD COLLEGE’S EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION – 5 Minutes, page #281**
Crystal Andrews

Item 14 **ACTION ON THE INITIAL APPROVAL OF NEW CURRICULAR PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PHYLLIS J. WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION – 5 Minutes, page #298**
Crystal Andrews

*******TIME CERTAIN AT 4:30PM*******

Item 15 **ACTION ON SURRENDER AND MOTION TO DISMISS BPE CASE #2026-01, DAVIS – 10 Minutes, page #304**
Brenton Craggs

Item 16 **ACTION ON SURRENDER AND MOTION TO DISMISS BPE CASE #2026-06, WHITNEY – 10 Minutes, page #305**
Dr. Ron Slinger

RECESS

Friday, September 25, 2026
8:30AM

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Welcome Visitors

❖ **CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Items 17-18)**

Item 17 **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS COMMISSION – 15 Minutes, page #307**
Cathy Kincheloe

Item 18 **ACTION ON MOUNT ASCENSION LEARNING ACADEMY AMENDMENT REQUEST – 15 Minutes, page #311**
McCall Flynn

❖ **MSDB COMMITTEE – Lisa Schmidt (Item 19)**

Item 19 **MSDB REPORT – 30 Minutes, page #315**
Superintendent Paul Furthmyre

ACTION ITEMS:

- Action on Out of State Travel Request
- Action on Personnel Items

❖ **MACIE LIAISON – Julia Maxwell (Item 20)**

Item 20 **MACIE REPORT – 15 Minutes, page #340**
Jordann Lankford Forster

ACTION ITEM:

- Action on Montana School Boards Association
Indian School Board Caucus Member
- Action on MACIE Renewal

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 21)**

- Item 21** **ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TIMELINE PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 64, TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 5**
Minutes, page #345
McCall Flynn

❖ **STRATEGIC PLANNING – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 22)**

- Item 22** **WORK SESSION ON BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN – 1 Hour,**
page #351
McCall Flynn

*******TIME CERTAIN AT 11:00AM*******

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Dr. Ron Slinger (Item 23)**

- Item 23** **ACTION ON CONTESTED CASE HEARING BPE CASE #2026-04, KNIGHT – 30**
Minutes, page #357
Dr. Ron Slinger

❖ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Item 24)**

- Item 24** **ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 10 Minutes, page #358**
McCall Flynn

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS November 18-20, 2026, Bozeman, MT

Board of Education Meeting
Joint Montana Council of Deans of Education Meeting
MACIE Update
Assessment Update
Federal Update
Annual Data Collection Report
Action on Variance to Standards Requests & Renewals
Accreditation Report
Annual Professional Development Unit Providers Report
Content Standards Revision Update

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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.