

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 7, 2020**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Thursday May 7, 2020**  
**8:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Schottle called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Ms. Stockton took roll call and the Chair welcomed guests.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Mr. Jeremiah Lynch; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Paris Becker; Ms. Paige Lepard. Ex Officio Members: Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor's Office; Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen. Staff present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Patty Muir, OPI; Ms. Kara Flath, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath; OPI; Ms. Jule Walker, MTSBA; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Mr. Marco Ferro, MFPE; Dr. Kadene Drummer, Stone Child College; Ms. Jennifer Smith, MACIE; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, Interim Superintendent MSDB; Ms. Kelly Cresswell, Reach Higher Montana; Mr. Nathan Miller, OPI;

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.**

***Ms. Quinlan noted a motion was missing in the minutes which will be corrected before posted.***

***No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**ADOPT AGENDA**

**Mr. Jerry Lynch moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

❖ **REPORTS – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 1-6)**

**Item 1                      CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes**  
**Dr. Darlene Schottle**

Chair Schottle thanked everyone who is working from home and thanked all the school districts across the state for the work they are doing during this unusual time to continue to bring education to students across Montana. The Chair noted that Mr. Paul Furthmyre is the interim Superintendent at the MSDB and although a search was underway for the Superintendent position, due to the Covid 19 crisis, the search has been suspended and Mr. Furthmyre has been offered the interim position for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the MSDB Interim Superintendent Contract for 2020-2021. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey**

***Ms. Lacey thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his hard work and willingness to step in and take the position.***

***No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes  
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan thanked all the Education Associations for all the work they have done to provide guidance to school districts during the Covid 19 crisis to continue to provide learning for students across Montana. Mr. Donovan discussed the Zoom meeting of the MUS 2-year education interim group, the bi-weekly Covid meetings held by Superintendent Arntzen's office, and all the work that has gone on remotely over the last two months. Mr. Donovan reviewed the three applications for the CSPAC appointments for the Board before requesting approval of the applicants.

**Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the CSPAC Appointments for: K-8 Teacher, Barbara Brown; K-12 Specialist Theresa Marchant; and Post-Secondary, Dr. Trent Atkins. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

***Ms. Lacey noted the importance of the CSPAC and the work the Council does and provided a brief historical background of the Council. Ms. Lacey thanked the members of the Council for their work.***

***No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – 15 Minutes  
Elsie Arntzen**

Superintendent Arntzen thanked all the OPI staff for their continued telework since the Covid 19 crisis began, and reviewed happenings at the OPI since the March BPE meeting. The Superintendent welcomed the new Board member, and thanked Mr. Donovan and the Education Advocates for their continued work as well. The Superintendent discussed a recent meeting with the State PTA Association and relayed how the \$41 million received by the OPI from the CARES Grant will be allocated. The Superintendent discussed the Montana Learn Task Force, how individuals can apply, and what the task force will be doing. Also reviewed was the Flexibility Task Force and the School Safety Group, as well as the reopening of the Willow Creek School District. Superintendent Arntzen answered Board member questions.

**Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT – 15 Minutes  
Angela McLean**

Ms. McLean updated the Board on work at the Commissioner's Office during Covid 19 especially the Task Force working on determining the reopening of campuses for fall 2020 and what that might look like. Ms. McLean reviewed the collaboration with OPI to offer the ACT to this year's high school juniors in the Fall of 2020 due to Covid 19, and FAQ Guidance documents for admissions requirements for students who are unable to take the ACT due to Covid 19. Ms. McLean also discussed a Financial Aid Survey



***Ms. Lacey noted that Mr. Kelly from MSDB also serves on the Great Falls Public Schools Calendar Committee so that the two schools are on the same page. Question from Ms. Quinlan if remote learning is still in place if the calendar might change. Mr. Furthmyre noted if that happens the school will review the calendar for possible changes.***

***No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the 2020-2021 Golden Triangle Cooperative Agreement for the MSDB. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.***

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Human Resource Hiring for Melanie Wiley. Motion seconded by***

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

Mr. Furthmyre recognized staff who are retiring and moving on from the school and thanked them for their work. Chair Schottle thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his work and noted that the Board misses this May meeting on the MSDB Campus and hopes to be back next year. Ms. Lacey offered condolences to Mr. Furthmyre and the staff on the passing of one MSDB employee. Ms. Bremner noted that the longevity of the retiring staff will be missed.

**❖ MACIE LIAISON – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 8)**

**Item 8                      MACIE REPORT – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes  
Jennifer Smith**

Ms. Bremner reviewed the virtual meeting MACIE held on Zoom yesterday and turned the report over to Ms. Jennifer Smith who updated the Board on what the MACIE has been working on since the March Board meeting report. Mr. Donovan reviewed the Class 7 License created twenty-five years ago allowing tribes to have licensed individuals to teach Native languages.

***Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the nomination of Ms. LeEllen Bundy McLeod to MACIE. Motion seconded by Mr. Jerry Lynch.***

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 8-11)**

**Item 9                      STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT/FEDERAL UPDATE – (INFORMATION) –  
15 Minutes  
Julie Murgel**

Ms. Murgel reported on the waivers the Office of Public Instruction has received due to the Covid 19 Crisis. Waivers have afforded the state flexibility in Assessment, Accountability, and the Federal Report Card. Ms. Murgel explained the waivers to the Board and answered questions. Ms. Tammy Lacey thanked Ms. Murgel for the FAQ document provided in the Agenda packet.



**Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the recommendation of State Superintendent Arntzen for the seven requests for initial Variance to Standards Applications. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

**Question from Ms. Lacey if all variances were for Library Media and Ms. Muir confirmed they are. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Muir requested approval of the three renewal applications for Variance to Standards for: Troy 7-8, Elysian Middle School, and Glacier Gateway Elementary.

**Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the recommendation of State Superintendent Arntzen for the three requests for renewal Variance to Standards Applications. Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.**

**No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 14**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN STEP 2 OF INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS – (ACTION) – 45 Minutes  
Patty Muir, Nathan Miller**

Ms. Muir reviewed the Step 2 of the Intensive Assistance process for the Board and introduced the Circle School district who presented their plan to the Board. Ms. Muir recommended approval of the plan.

**Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the 2019-2020 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Circle High School. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.**

**Question from Ms. Lacey for the Circle Superintendent regarding elimination of the Art program and the Superintendent noted it has been moved to an Art Club which has had good participation levels so far.**

**No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Muir reviewed the plan for Hot Springs 7-8 and Hot Springs High School and introduced the Superintendent and Board Chair for Hot Springs who presented their plan to the Board. Ms. Muir asked for Board approval of the Corrective Plan.

**Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the 2019-2020 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Hot Springs 7-8 and Hot Springs High School. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

**Question from Ms. Lacey for Superintendent regarding endorsements for the teachers being moved.**

**No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Muir introduced the Superintendent and Board Chair for Rosebud School to review their Corrective Plan for the Board. Ms. Muir asked for Board approval of the Corrective Plan.



**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the one-year expiration extension request for Montana provisional license holders and third-year internships and extend license or internship expiration date from 6/30/2020 to 6/30/2021. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

***Ms. Lacey noted that this supports teachers and schools and that she appreciates the recommendation coming forward from the OPI.***

***No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 18**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE STATE EXIT REPORT AND REGULAR ACCREDITATION STATUS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT STONE CHILD COLLEGE (ACTION) – 15 Minutes**

**Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson introduced the members of the team and reviewed the Site Visit at the school for the Board and highlighted several areas on the report for the Board. Dr. Peterson answered Board member questions and a brief review for new Board member Lynch.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the State Exit Report and Regular Accreditation Status of the Education Department at Stone Child College. Motion seconded by Mr. Jerry Lynch.**

***Ms. Lacey noted the importance of this program for Tribal schools and for providing teachers in rural Montana.***

***No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Dr. Drummer and staff at Stone Child College spoke to the program and thanked the Accreditation team for their work and for the Board for approval of full Accreditation.***

**Item 19**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE REQUEST TO REINSTATE TWO CURRICULAR PROGRAMS: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes**

**Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson reviewed for the Board that the University of Providence had previously requested a termination of the Education department at the University of Providence, but in November the Board of Trustees voted to bring back the Elementary Education Program and Health and Physical Education Program, and now these programs are up for approval for reinstatement before the Board. Dr. Redinger and Dr. Leslie Lott from the University of Providence reviewed the process the school has undergone over the past year for the Board and how they are here now requesting these two programs be reinstated. Dr. Peterson reviewed the process moving forward. Clarifying questions were asked and answered.

**Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the University of Providence Request to Reinstate Two Curricular Programs: Elementary Education and Health and Physical Education. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.**

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***





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