



MEETING PROJECT NAME: Education Advocates Meeting
DATE OF MEETING: March 26, 2020
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Conference Call

ATTENDEES:

PRESENT: As best of our records could show

McCall Flynn, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BOPE)
Dianne Burke, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)
Kirk Miller, Executive Director of School Administrators of Montana (SAM)
Pad McCracken, Legislative Services
Emily Dean, Director of Advocacy, Montana School Boards Association
Denise Williams, Executive Director, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)
Dan Rask, Executive Director, Montana Small Schools Alliance (MSSA)
Linda Rost, Montana Teacher of the Year 2020
Paul Furthmyre, Principal, Montana Scholl for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB)
Marco Ferro, Public Policy Director, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
Julia Platt, Fiscal Analyst II Expenditure Analysis, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney, Legislative Services
Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association
Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

OPI STAFF

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent
Jason Butcher, Assistant Deputy Superintendent
Tracy Moseman, Health Enhancement Division Administrator
Julia Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel
Patty Muir, Accreditation Program Director
Amber Zietz, Administrative Specialist Educational Opportunity
Dylan Klapmeier, Director of Communications and Federal Regulations
Ashley McGrath, State Assessment Director
Julie Murgel, School Improvement ESSA Coordinator
Jenifer Cline, Student Support Service Division Administrator
Kris Thatcher, Educator Licensure Program Manager
Sharyl Allen, Transformational & Personalized Learning Manager

RECORD KEEPER

Christy Perryman, Administrative Clerk, Office of Public Instruction

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Graduation: CDC Guidance, Tracy Moseman

- OHCE is currently working to develop guidelines for post-secondary graduation, and they have agreed to share as soon as they are available.
- Mass Gatherings
 - Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Three New Nutrition Waivers, Tracy Moseman

- Families can pick up Grab and Go meals without student being present
- Meal Patterns allow greater flexibility in food served
- Summer Food Service Program Eligibility is being submitted, but not yet approved

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Other Business

- Superintendent Elsie Arntzen - BPE Flexibility in Assessment
- Superintendent Elsie Arntzen - Education Advocates COVID-19 Updates will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 and Thursday, April 2, 2020
- McCall Flynn - School Plans
- Lance Melton- School Waivers
- McCall Flynn - School Elections
- Lance Melton - Election Waivers
- Dylan Klapmeier - US Senate Passed 2 Trillion Dollar Recovery Package
- Kirk Miller - Survey Launch

Thank you for your patience and **Putting Montana Students First** during this uncertain time.

[Full Education Advocates meeting can be listened to at this link](#)

Guidance on Mass Gatherings

CDC Considerations for postponing or cancelling a Mass Gathering.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

- The overall number of attendees.
 - Larger gatherings offer more opportunities for person-to-person contact.
- The number of people attending who are at greater risk of more serious illness after contracting COVID-19.
 - Older adults and persons with severe pre-existing health conditions.
- The density of attendees within a confined area.
 - From what is currently known about the virus, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts (within 6 feet).
- The potential economic impact to the participants, attendees, staff, and the larger community.
- The level of transmission in your local community and the level of transmission in the areas from which your attendees will travel.
 - Consult with local health department to better understand the level of transmission within your community.
- If there are ways in which to significantly reduce the number of attendees.

At a minimal-to-moderate level of community transmission, it is recommended to:

- Cancel gatherings of more than 10 people for organizations that serve higher-risk populations.
- Cancel community-wide mass gatherings (cutoff threshold is at discretion of community leadership)

At a substantial level of community transmission, it is recommended to cancel mass gatherings of any size.

National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA). <https://www.nfda.org/covid-19>

Other considerations:

- Doing the event virtually
- Holding a separate memorial or honorary service at a later date
- *While it is possible to have a funeral, they must, in the interim, be limited.* Updated guidance released by the White House on March 16 suggests no public gatherings larger than 10 people for the next 15 days. Updated guidance from the CDC released on March

16 suggests no gatherings of more than 50 people for the next eight weeks. Information below offers suggestions for how you may handle services in the interim.

- Bodies can be transferred and embalmed using proper PPE.
- Decedents can be buried or cremated but state and local requirements may vary.