

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.5643
In-State Toll-free: 1.888.231.9393
TTY Users: 406.444.0235
opi.mt.gov

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



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

ATTENDEES:

PRESENT: As best of our records could show

Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BOPE)
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
Marco Ferro, Public Policy Director, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
McCall Flynn, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Jule Walker, Field Specialist, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)
Mark Beckman, Montana High School Association
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
Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent
Jason Butcher, Assistant Deputy Superintendent
Tracy Moseman, Health Enhancement Division Administrator
Michael Sweeney, Chief Data Officer
Dylan Klapmeier, Communications Director
Kristine Thatcher, Educator Licensure Program Manager
Donnie Wetzel, ESSA Tribal Liaison
Julie Murgel, School Improvement ESSA Coordinator
Chrystal Armstrong, SLDS Program Manager
Colet Bartow, CSI Division Administrator
Jenifer Cline, Student Support Service Division Administrator

RECORD KEEPER

Christy Perryman, Administrative Clerk, Office of Public Instruction

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Teacher Learning Hub, *Colet Bartow*

- Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

New MITI Grant, *Michael Sweeney/Chrystal Armstrong*

- Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

ESSA Tribal Liaison, *Donnie Wetzel/Julie Murgel*

- Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

OPI Phase I: Reunification Plan, *Sharyl Allen*

- Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Other Business

- Pad McCracken – Interim Education Committee and HB 745
- Kirk Miller – META

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](#)



Education Advocates Meeting
April 30, 2020
10:30 a.m.

Teacher Learning Hub Data Summary

- Averaging 300 active users per day
- 388 new users in February, 12,586 total user accounts
- 21,439 renewal units earned from July 1, 2019 to March 30, 2020
- 6000 renewal units earned in February and March 2020
- 1056 course completions in March 2020, doubled March 2019 completions
- 3.73 out of 4.0 course satisfaction ratings across all courses and course types

The Teacher Learning Hub staff continues to maintain and support course development. Please send your suggestions for additional courses to OPILearningHub@mt.gov See complete course listings at <https://learninghub.mrooms.net>

Remote Learning Sharing Sessions Data Summary

Week	Number of Sessions	Total of Participants
March 23, 2020	26	979
March 30, 2020	21	840
April 6, 2020	19	401
April 13, 2020	16	172
April 20, 2020	16	107
April 27, 2020	13	222
TOTALS	111	2721

The Principals’ Sharing Session led by Jon Konen continues to have the highest number of weekly participants – Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting notes and next weeks’ schedules are posted on the OPI Online Learning Resources page <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Online-Learning-Resources>

Please contact Colet Bartow, Director, Content Standards and Instruction, with questions. cbartow@mt.gov, 406-444-3583.



FY 2019 Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant

Award amount: \$3,499,952.18

Award period: Four year award- March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2024

Funding Priority: Infrastructure

3 Goals: Technology updates and data standardization, new data linkages, sustainability

Goal 1: Rebuild OPI's SLDS technology and standardize the data

Why:

- Technology is outdated, too costly to continue repairing what needs replacement
- Analytics capabilities currently limited due to age of technology
- Original design needs updating to meet current and emerging data needs of OPI and schools

Benefit to MT schools:

- Expanded options for parsing data- GEMS, mapping, visualizations, comparison
- Lays technological foundation for easier, faster, and more consistent processes for reporting

Goal 2: Establish new data linkages and build data use capacity

Department of Labor and Industry, Tribal colleges

Why:

- Additional variables for more robust longitudinal data analysis
- Minimize duplicative analysis across government agencies
- Equity in data

Benefit to MT schools:

- Wage and CTE data will provide additional measures of student success
- Linked regional wage, unemployment, and related data for student advising
- Equity in data, increased ability to understand variables for populations of interest

Goal 3: Sustainability

Why:

- Revisions to technology require new documentation, processes, and policy revisions
- Cross-training prevents loss of institutional knowledge with staff turnover
- Grant-funded work needs comprehensive systems in place because future funding is not guaranteed

Benefit to MT schools:

- Continuity in data access and support for data use
- Expanded resources for existing and new analytics tools and data sets
- Availability of more timely information, more options for data training and support

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.5643
In-State Toll-free: 1.888.231.9393
TTY Users: 406.444.0235
opi.mt.gov

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A⁺**



**Education Advocates Meeting
April 30, 2020**

ESSA Tribal Liaison

The Tribal, Family and Community Liaison Purpose:

This position directs and leads collaboration and communication efforts between OPI and Montana tribes by empowering tribal leaders, communities, and families to develop local, tribal specific educational practices that improve school performance and student achievement. The Tribal, Family, and Community Liaison is also the lead person to assess and provide Indigenous perspective in OPI interagency communication efforts, policies, and planning. This position leads and directs the tribal, family and community engagement unit. They also lead coordination efforts and initiatives between the Indian Education for All (IEFA) and American Indian Student Achievement units, specifically with respect to strong IEFA implementation within Comprehensive Support and Improvement and Targeted Support and Improvement schools.

Donnie Wetzel, Jr Biography

Don Wetzel Jr. was hired by the MT Office of Public Instruction in 2010 where he has worked with Montana reservation schools on implementing youth leadership programs and incorporating tribal knowledge and solutions to school climate and student identity. For over 9 years, he served as the American Indian Youth Development Coordinator at OPI, a position that works on enriching youth and building bridges between two worlds. Don also worked for the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council for 13 years on numerous State and Federal issues as well as directing a Suicide Prevention grant.

406.444.4527
DWetzel2@mt.gov



PHASE ONE RETURN TO WORK GUIDANCE

May 1, 2020

Phase One includes the Governor's lifting of the Stay at Home order. (Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020) Essential services continue to be exempt. The reopening of Montana will occur in phases, beginning under this directive with Phase One. The duration of Phase One is unknown.

Personal Responsibility

- Continue to practice good hygiene
 - Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer frequently
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
 - Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
 - Consider using a non-medical face-covering especially where you cannot readily apply social distancing.
- Employees using leave related to COVID-19 should follow the leave guidance published on the COVID-19 Information for OPI Staff [page](#) or consult with your supervisor for guidance.

PEOPLE WHO FEEL SICK SHOULD STAY AT HOME

- Do not go to work.
- Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.
- Follow local health department guidance on isolation and quarantine.

Employees showing symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to the office

REMOTE WORK

The OPI is continuing remote work for its employees.

- Employees who need to come to the office should notify their supervisor.
- Any employee who is in a [vulnerable population](#) is strongly encouraged to work remotely.
- Employees with impacted children from closed school buildings and/or vulnerable family members should continue remote work.
- Please contact the [help desk](#) for assistance in making sure your remote work technology needs are being met.

WORKING FROM THE OFFICE

- Access to OPI buildings remains restricted to employees and essential service providers only
- Continue to coordinate work with your supervisor and ensure that social distancing occurs. Supervisors are encouraged to accommodate alternative work schedules and specific needs.
- Employees who work at the office **must**:
 - maintain the six-foot social distancing requirement.
 - Limit in-person meetings to under 10 people provided six feet of social distancing can be maintained. Meeting participants are to disinfect tables after any meeting.
 - Wipe-down items touched in common areas. Common areas are kitchen/break rooms, copiers, and supply cabinets. Items includes faucet handles, doorknobs, refrigerators, handles, and anything else touched or handled.
 - Hand sanitizer and wipes will be provided for use near entry points, in restrooms, and common areas.

Non-essential travel bans are still in effect.