

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

May 11-12, 2017
Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
3911 Central Ave
Great Falls MT 59401

Thursday May 11, 2017
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Chair Carroll welcomed new BPE member Anne Keith who introduced herself. Students from the MSDB led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Stockton took the roll call. Chair Carroll read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Board members present: Ms. Sharon Carroll, Chair; Dr. Darlene Schottle, Vice Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Molly DeMarco, Student Rep; Ms. Angela McLean, Commissioner of Higher Ed Office; Dr. Tim Tharp, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. Staff present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guest present: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Ms. Donna Sorensen, Superintendent MSDB; Ms. Georgie Gourneau, MACIE; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Patty Muir, OPI; Ms. Jessica Bryant, OPI; Ms. Kara Sperle, OPI; Ms. Nancy Hall, OBPP; Mr. Kyle Moen, OPI Chief Legal Counsel; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA;

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.

Ms. Lacey noted that she has an engagement before the meeting on Friday and she may be a few moments late. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

❖ REPORTS – Sharon Carroll (Items 1-6)

Item 1 8:35 AM CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Sharon Carroll

Chair Carroll thanked the Board staff for the setting of the agenda and reviewed the general process for setting the agenda and the timelines required for doing so. One day meetings are preferred but are not always possible to attain. Chair Carroll gave special thanks to Dr. Rob Watson, Superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools, and Executive Director Pete Donovan, who both testified in opposition to HB

376 to create public charter schools. Chair Carroll then asked Mr. Donovan to briefly review the process for public comment.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Board on every action item on the agenda prior to final Board action.

**Item 2 8:40 AM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Pete Donovan**

Mr. Donovan briefly reviewed the wrap up of the legislative session in particular HB 355 allowing for 10 passenger vans to be used for pupil transportation and that the Bus Standards will need to be reviewed and revised to accommodate this latest change in statute. Also discussed was the public hearing on current the proposed changes to the Bus Standards, a follow up on suicide prevention efforts as requested by Senator McClafferty, and that Representative Jean Price will be visiting the Board during the MSDB item to discuss issues surrounding licensure for teachers of the deaf. Ms. Lacey thanked the board staff for the weekly updates on the legislative bills. The board's biennial audit has been completed and the report will be presented to the Audit committee later in May. Mr. Donovan then reviewed the three CSPAC appointments and asked for the Board's approval.

- **CSPAC Appointments**
 - **Leanne Yenny**
 - **Noreen Burris**
 - **Angel Turoski**

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Leanne Yenny as the Teacher representative, Ms. Noreen Burris as the Specialist representative, and Ms. Angel Turoski as the Post - Secondary representative to CSPAC. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion.

Ms. Tammy Lacey, as a former CPSAC member, thanked the members for their work.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

**Item 3 8:50 AM STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Deputy Superintendent Dr. Tim Tharp**

Dr. Tharp reviewed new federal requirements for the ESSA plan, reviewed Legislative items the OPI was working on and following, discussed the redesign of the OPI website, agency ADA requirements, and the 2019 biennial budget review needed to incorporate the budget cuts made to the OPI budget by the Legislature. Goals of the OPI administration were discussed including improving math scores, and alternative education to allow flexibility for schools. Dr. Tharp answered questions from the Board regarding math scores and the ESSA plan.

**Item 4 9:05 AM COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT
Angela McLean**

Ms. McLean gave the update for the Commissioner, welcoming Ms. Keith to the Board, and congratulated Ms. Lacey and Mr. Barnhart on their Senate confirmations. Ms. McLean congratulated Ms. Molly DeMarco for the presentation she led at the district Council meeting on teaching and education. Ms.

McLean discussed the Hamilton Report, a new report on teacher recruitment and retention issues and that the Task Force has already hit on each one. June 16th all EDU101 teachers will be convened in Bozeman as an informational session on the Educator Rising program for anyone interested. Ms. McLean also touched on the math topic discussed under the Superintendent's report and that this is an issue the Commissioner and the MUS has been working on for some time to decrease remediation rates, and talked about the efforts in the OCHE to tackle this issue. Ms. McLean offered to give a presentation on OCHE programs regarding math to the group OPI is gathering to work on increasing math scores. Ms. McLean fielded questions from the board members.

Item 5 9:20 AM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT
Siri Smillie

Ms. Smillie was out of state at a conference and did not present.

Item 6 9:35 AM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
Molly DeMarco

Ms. DeMarco reported on her recent activities including AP testing, graduation of the senior class and activities surrounding that, district student council meeting that Ms. McLean attended and presented at the meeting. Dr. Schottle thanked Ms. DeMarco for all her work on education. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner thanked Ms. De Marco for having a strong student voice on the Board.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Board on every action item on the agenda prior to final Board action.

❖ MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Item 7)

Item 7 9:50 AM MSDB REPORT
Donna Sorensen

Ms. Sorensen briefly discussed the MSDB report contained in the agenda packet and discussed activities going on at the school since the last Board report. Outreach is preparing for upcoming Family Learning Weekends for families with deaf or hard of hearing students, or low vision/visually impaired students, to visit the campus and learn about the school. Additionally, students are preparing to travel home for Mother's Day. Ms. Sorensen discussed the struggles in keeping the pool on campus open to give swimming lessons to students. Ms. Lacey offered to work with the MSDB to allow use of the pool on the Great Falls High School campus. Staffing and staff salaries was also discussed and Ms. Sorensen answered board questions.

- **Adopt 2017-2018 MSDB Calendar**

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the 2017-2018 MSDB Calendar, draft 2.
Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.

Ms. Tammy Lacey asked a question regarding the difference between draft 1 and draft 2, which was an additional day of spring break. Teachers voted and draft 2 was selected. Chair Carroll asked questions regarding teacher PIR days not listed on the calendar. A committee at the MSDB will be discussing PIR days – Ms. Carroll asked that Ms. Bremner be included in those discussions.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Information/Non Action: LICENSURE FOR TEACHERS OF THE DEAF – Representative Jean Price**

Ms. Sorensen introduced Representative Jean Price and a request from a community member regarding licensure for teachers of the deaf. Two separate issues are at hand – one of which was covered in the most recent Chapter 57 revisions to Educator Licensure. The other is regarding teachers of American Sign Language (ASL). Representative Price discussed the issues with the Board. Community member Hollis Fudge would like the Board to consider licensure for Teaching ASL. Mr. Fudge presented his request to the Board giving a history of ASL in America and its use for deaf education. Mr. Ray Sevie also addressed the Board discussing ASL, how deaf children use ASL, and how teachers of the deaf need to know and be able to teach ASL. Mr. Fudge asked what they need to do to start the process. Ms. Bremner noted that the CSPAC would be the entity that would review the request from the group. Mr. Donovan explained the CSPAC and what their role is in preparing recommendations to the Board on matters regarding teacher certification. The Board would need to make a recommendation to CSPAC to begin the process. Mr. Donovan requested Mr. Fudge to make that request through him (Mr. Donovan) to begin the process. Representative Price asked what the CSPAC would be looking at what information would need to be provided. Mr. Donovan discussed what CSPAC would do. Ms. McLean thanked the group for their forward thinking on this subject and noted that the MUS stands ready to move forward dependent upon the outcome of this discussion.

*****BREAK 10:20 – 10:35*****

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

**Item 8 10:35 AM MACIE REPORT
 Mandy Smoker-Broadus**

Mandy Smoker-Broadus gave the MACIE report on behalf of Georgie Gorneau who was unable to attend. MACIE held their recent meeting in Helena and met with Superintendent Arntzen to hear her plans for Indian Education. The Superintendent and MACIE discussed Indian Education regarding diversity, achievement gap, whole child programs, and suicide prevention. Other presentations included one from Childwise regarding the ACE Assessments and Study, a presentation from the Nez Perce tribe in Idaho who have received a STEP Grant from the White House to increase the capacity of tribes and give a stronger voice at the table regarding public education. Montana has now received a STEP Grant for the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe so good information was shared with the Nez Perce. An update from the Indian Education program at OPI was also given to MACIE, as well as discussions about new requirement in ESSA for Tribal consultation. The Drop Out report for American Indians indicates this issue has been on the decline in recent years. Also heard was a report on the Montana Autism project, Teacher Learning Hub with Indian Education for All courses, GEAR UP report, and a report from the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs. MACIE will meet again in August.

- ❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Item 9)**

**Item 9 10:50 AM ASSESSMENT UPDATE
 Dr. Tim Tharp**

Dr. Tharp gave the Assessment report on behalf of Jessica Eilertsen who was attending an Assessment conference in Billings. ACT testing for Juniors is ongoing, as is Smarter Balanced testing. The Department of Ed has opened a third window for Peer Review and OPI will have the SBAC, ACT, and MontCAS reviewed. Performance level descriptors will be worked on with cooperation from Wyoming to see if the ACT can be divided into the categories for the three categories required by the department. Wyoming currently uses three categories for performance descriptors for the ACT. Superintendent Arntzen gave an update on the TAC meeting going on in Billings regarding assessment. Discussions

All other dates remain the same. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.

No further discussion. Amended motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

❖ LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 13-15)

**Item 13 1:30 PM ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT OF THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-NORTHERN, APRIL 9-11, 2017
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI, presented items 13 and 14 together. Dr. Peterson reviewed the Board's rule for Educator Preparation Programs and their obligation to approve those programs. These items will be on the July agenda for Action.

**Item 14 1:40 PM ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT OF THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BILLINGS, APRIL 23-25, 2017
Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

See item #13.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Board on every action item on the agenda prior to final Board action.

**Item 15 1:55 PM RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED NEW CURRICULUM PROGRAM IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 3 (ECE & CS P-3) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOZEMAN
Dr. Christine Lux, Program Leader, MSU; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson**

Dr. Peterson reviewed the background and process of how this new program has developed to date.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the proposed new curriculum program in Early Childhood Education Services preschool through grade 3 licensure endorsement in the department of Health and Human Development, MSU Bozeman. Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.

Ms. Lacey asked Dr. Peterson if she had any concerns about the new program, and Dr. Peterson stated she did not. Ms. Mary Jo Bremner thanked MSU for their work. Ms. Angela McLean thanked Dr. Peterson for her work on the new program and for all the innovative work on the campuses for P-3 education.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Peterson read a note from Dr. Lux thanking the Board for the program approval.

INFORMATION

❖ ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE –Darlene Schottle (Items 16-21)

**Item 16 2:10 PM REPORT ON THE SITE VISITS OF SCHOOLS IN STEP 1 OF THE
INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS
Patty Muir**

Ms. Patty Muir briefly reviewed the Accreditation Process for new member Ms. Keith before discussing the site visits to the Step 1 schools by the Accreditation division. Ms. Muir discussed some of the obstacles especially the small schools have in filling teaching positions.

**Item 17 2:25 PM CONTENT STANDARDS REVISION UPDATE
Colet Bartow**

Ms. Colet Bartow discussed the process of developing the Content Standards Revision schedule as adopted by the Board in November 2016. Ms. Bartow discussed budget concerns and limited resources in the OPI that has prompted the office to look at a “pause” in the schedule of revisions of the standards for a two-year period of time. Legislative changes have cut positions from the division in addition to the budget cuts. The Board asked for clarification of where math fits in but Ms. Bartow explained that math standards are not being reviewed out of order. Chair Carroll asked about Computer Literacy standards and Social Studies standards which are first in the cycle to be reviewed. Ms. Bartow stated that initial work had already begun and that the office is currently looking to use the Teacher Learning Hub for coursework development in the interim. Computer Science standards will be used in the same way. Ms. Bremner noted that as a retired Social Studies teacher she is concerned with replacing one set of standards for another as that sometimes pulls resources from other teaching areas. Chair Carroll noted that this process does not have to be fiscally heavy and asked if the curricular groups across the state have been contacted to start the process moving forward. Dr. Chris Ochiewski, Curriculum Director for Great Falls Public Schools addressed the Board with his concerns for a pause in the standards.

ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be afforded the opportunity to comment before the Board on every action item on the agenda prior to final Board action.

**Item 18 3:00 PM RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE ADDENDUM TO THE 2016-2017
ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT
Patty Muir**

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the addendum to the 2016-2017 Annual Accreditation Status for All Schools. Ms. Tammy Lacey seconded the motion.

Dr. Darlene Schottle posed a question of clarification. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 19 3:10 PM RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2016-2017 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS REMAINING IN STEP 2 OF THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS
Patty Muir

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to recommend APPROVAL of the 2016-17 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Box Elder High School. Ms. Anne Keith seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to recommend APPROVAL of the 2016-17 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Conrad High School. Mr. Jesse Barnhart seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to recommend APPROVAL of the 2016-17 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Poplar High School. Ms. Tammy Lacey seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to recommend APPROVAL of the 2016-17 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Lame Deer High School and Lame Deer 7-8. Mr. Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 20 3:20 PM RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2016-2017 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN STEP 2 OF THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS - Superintendent and Board Chair of: Sidney Public Schools, Wolf Point Public Schools, Lame Deer Public Schools
Patty Muir

Sidney Public Schools Superintendent Dan Farr and Board Chair Craig Stensslusser were conferenced in to the meeting for their presentation to explain their difficulties in finding a licensed teacher for their Business Education program.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to recommend approval of Sidney High School Corrective Plan and Timeline. Ms. Anne Keith seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Wolf Point Public Schools presented their corrective action plan for Wolf Point. Mr. Rob Osborne went through the Corrective Plan with the Board and answered questions.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to recommend APPROVAL of Wolf Point Southside School, Wolf Point 7-8, Wolf Point High School Corrective Plans and Timeline. Ms. Tammy Lacey seconded the motion.

Ms. Anne Keith asked Mr. Osborne about the Educational Consultants and what their role is. Chair Carroll thanked the Superintendent and Board Chair for coming and presenting their plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gerald Chouinard, Lame Deer Superintendent, Mr. Robert McClean, Lame Deer Board Chair, and Ms. Sherry Foote, Lame Deer Elementary Principal presented their Corrective Plan to the Board, and answered questions from board members.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to recommend APPROVAL of 2016 – 17 Corrective Plan and Timeline for Lame Deer School. Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart.

Ms. Tammy Lacey commended the district efforts and offered some recommendations on helping their teachers renew their license.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 21 4:20 PM RECOMMEND APPROVAL/DENIAL OF INITIAL AND RENEWAL VARIANCE TO STANDARDS APPLICATIONS
Patty Muir**

Ms. Patty Muir presented the applications for initial variance to standards. Ms. Muir reviewed the process schools undertake to apply for a variance to the standards.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the recommendation of State Superintendent Arntzen of the six requests for Initial Variances to Standards for: Eastgate School, and Radley Elementary; Fort Smith Elementary School; Frontier School and Frontier 7-8 (2 requests), Darby School, Darby 7-8, and Darby High School requests). Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Patty Muir presented the renewal applications for variance to standards.

Dr. Darlene Schottle moved to approve the recommendation of State Superintendent Arntzen of the five requests for Renewal of Variances to Standards for: Laurel Middle School and Laurel High School; Thompson Falls 7-8; Troy 7-8; St. Ignatius Middle School; Bigfork Elementary and Bigfork 7-8; and Beaverhead County High School. Ms. Tammy Lacey seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned for the evening at 4:41 PM.

Friday May 12, 2017

8:00 AM

Chair Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

❖ **LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 22-24)**

INVESTIGATION REVIEW

**Item 22 8:00 AM HEARING ON BPE CASE #2016-08, Sarah Sheldon
Rob Stutz, Kyle Moen**

Ms. Lacey opened the item and turned it over to Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services who noted that this item is not a hearing, but an investigative review per 20-4-110(5) in which the Board determines if there is sufficient evidence to move to a hearing. Mr. Stutz explained whether or not public comment can be heard during this investigation and Mr. Stutz explained that only if the Board determines there is not sufficient evidence to move to a hearing. Ms. Lacey asked what the Boards options are today and Mr. Stutz noted the Board is to determine: 1) sufficient evidence exists to move to a hearing 2) not move to a hearing 3) ask for further investigation to be done.

Mr. Stutz then reviewed the findings in the case.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to move forward with a hearing in the licensure case #2016-08. Motion seconded by Dr. Darlene Schottle.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

HEARINGS

**Item 23 8:30 AM HEARING ON BPE CASE #2017-01, John Bach
Rob Stutz**

Mr. Stutz opened the hearing in BPE Case #2017-01. A pre-conference hearing has been held between all parties and Mr. Stutz explained to Mr. Bach that he has the burden of proof and the ability to make an opening statement and a closing statement if he chooses. Mr. Bach addressed the Board with his opening statement. OPI waived an opening statement. Mr. Stutz swore in Mr. Bach and he presented his case to the Board. Board members answered questions of Mr. Bach.

Mr. Kyle Moen, Chief Legal Counsel for OPI presented the OPI case to the Board. Mr. Moen is requesting that due to the unusual circumstances of Mr. Bach's case and his experience at a Bureau of Indian Education school, OPI is requesting the Board approve the license based upon Unusual Cases. Mr. Stutz explained that the BIE is recognized by the Federal government as a state accredited entity, in addition to the Department of Defense.

OPI waived closing remarks.

Mr. Bach presented his closing remarks to the Board requesting licensure.

Mr. Stutz asked clarifying questions of Mr. Moen in regards to the Unusual Cases rule.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and exercise rule 10.57.109 for Unusual Cases and grant Class 3 Administrative License with a K-12 Superintendent Endorsement for Mr. John E Bach. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.

Ms. Lacey noted that the Board needs to explore the accreditation status of Department of Defense schools and Bureau of Indian Education schools

and how those may need to be placed in rule. Ms. Bremner echoed those concerns.

Ms. Lacey thanked Mr. Bach for his service to students and wished him well in his endeavors.

**Chair Carroll echoed previous made comments.
No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 24 9:00 AM HEARING ON BPE CASE #2017-02, Debra Hayes
Rob Stutz**

Ms. Tammy Lacey opened the hearing on BPE Case #2017-02 and turned the hearing over to Mr. Rob Stutz and asked both parties to the table to present their case. Mr. Stutz explained the procedure to Ms. Hays allowing her first presentation of her opening remarks and closing remarks.

Ms. Hays presented her opening remarks for her case to the Board. OPI waived opening remarks.

Mr. Stutz swore in Ms. Hays who presented her case to the Board and presented Exhibits for her case. Ms. Hays answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Moen, OPI Chief Legal Counsel presented their case to the Board and waived closing remarks.

Ms. Hays made closing remarks to the Board.

Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to support the denial of OPI for a Superintendent endorsement for Ms. Hays. Dr. Darlene Schottle seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Carroll called for any public comment prior to going into Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

9:57 AM

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

DISCUSSION

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sharon Carroll (Item 25)

**Item 25 9:30 AM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION
Sharon Carroll**

10:20 AM

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS July 13-14, 2017

Strategic Planning Meeting

CSPAC/BPE Joint Meeting

CSPAC Annual Report

Annual HiSET Report

*Special Education Report
Assessment Update
Federal Update*

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

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Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Action may be taken by the Board on any item listed on the agenda. Public comment is welcome on all items but time limits on public comment may be set at the Chair's discretion.

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