

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

January 7, 2014

Governor Steve Bullock called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Board of Public Education members present: Sharon Carroll, Chair, Patty Myers, John Edwards, Paul Anderson, Erin Williams, Bernard Olson, Lila Taylor and Charity Ratliff. Board of Regents members present: Angela McLean, Chair, Jeffrey Krauss, Paul Tuss, Todd Buchanan, Fran Albrecht and Zach Rogala. Ex officio members present: Governor Steve Bullock, Superintendent Denise Juneau and Commissioner Clay Christian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Governor Bullock welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the board members for their service. He reminded them that his goals on coming into office were better jobs, better education and a more effective government. Governor Bullock stated he was proud of the work they had done in education, including coming together for the legislative session to work on education legislation. Working with the Legislature they froze college and university tuition, made a historic investment in K-12 schools, and passed a jobs bill to put people to work.

Governor Bullock visited 20 schools at the beginning of the school year to encourage students to work hard and stay in school. He visited early learning facilities where they are making great progress, but there are more children to serve. He recognized the innovation on the two-year campuses and the Complete College Montana program with a goal to increase the number of degrees and certificates earned from 40% to 60%. Dual enrollment is increasing and developing guided pathways and academic maps is helping students get their degree/certificate on time.

Workforce Development is working with colleges, universities, and private industries to develop curriculum to equip students to get the skills the workforce needs.

Funding was secured from the Legislature to support early childhood programs. Montana needs to insure that every Montana child can access early childhood programs so they are kindergarten ready. Investing in early childhood education is the right thing to do and makes economic sense generating a 9 to 1 return for every dollar spent.

Curbing the drop out rate is another high priority. Superintendent Juneau's Graduation Matters Montana Program is having great results. Some communities still struggle. We need to support wraparound services to address the challenges students face that keep them from completing high school.

Governor Bullock encouraged the board members to continue their good work.

Governor Bullock introduced Siri Smillie, Communities and Safety Policy Advisor to give a report on early childhood education.

Ms. Smillie stated it was critical to invest in early childhood development to insure that children were safe, healthy, and school ready. By the age of three children from low income homes have half the vocabulary of their peers. Studies show that fewer children will drop out of school or end up in jail or prison if early childhood development programs are in place.

The 2013 Legislature appropriated \$2 million to fund early childhood programs. A group of stakeholders were convened to do a comprehensive inventory of early childhood efforts and best practices from other states. The stakeholder group looked at what the preschool programs in Hamilton and the Great Falls districts are doing.

Montana is one of six states to receive a Striving Readers' grant for programs from early childhood through college.

Superintendent Juneau thanked Ms. Smillie for her work on the Early Childhood Grant and Governor Bullock for bringing DPHHS and OPI to the table to focus on early childhood development.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

Sharon Carroll, Chair of the Board of Public Education expressed her gratitude to the partners in education for help in charting a path for improving education. She reported that Chapters 53 and 54 content standards continue to be implemented by the Office of Public Education. The board has processed new standards of accreditation and approved six variances to the standards. Montana's new language arts content standards are being implemented.

The BPE is committed to help in all efforts on early childhood education. They are serving on a dual enrollment task force and will be reviewing and updating licensure and educator program standards rules. The BPE is working with the OPI to establish a definition of good moral character for educator licensure and responding to a transportation audit.

The BPE will participate in a subcommittee for shared policy goals for education agencies in Montana. Ms. Carroll thanked Governor Bullock for fostering a spirit of collaboration for the P-20 education system

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT - GRADUATION MATTERS MONTANA

Superintendent Juneau thanked both boards for their work in moving education forward. She reported that some Board of Public Education members toured the OPI

buildings and met OPI staff members. She expressed her thanks to OPI staff members for their feeling of pride for what OPI does to support schools across state.

Graduation Matters Montana (GMM) continues to see results. Communities are coming together to focus on preventing drop outs. Thirty-three communities have GMM programs. The tag line is: locally designed, locally implemented, based on what works in Montana. Seventy percent of students go to a school with GMM in their community. GMM receives funding from donations which are then distributed to schools. Schools belong to the public and everyone has a role to play in increasing graduation rates and being prepared for the next steps. Everything OPI does is under the umbrella of GMM.

The new English/language arts and math standards are in place and schools are implementing curriculum aligned to the new standards. The OPI has been able to secure funding through the Helmsley Foundation to have regional professional development around common core, bringing together every organization and person providing professional development so there is no duplication of effort. The OPI is working with teacher education partners, producing teacher candidates that are ready to go straight into the classroom prepared to teach to the common core. Montana teacher education programs are doing well producing good teachers.

Montana received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to move forward with the new online assessments to measure common core standards. This is a new generation of assessment. Without the waiver, we would have to do the old assessments and the new online assessments. This year is the field test while we get the technology in place and tested.

The 2013 Legislature authorized some funding to increase participation in Career and Technical student organizations. Statistics show that students engaged in career and technology education in high school have a 96% grad rate.

Superintendent Juneau stated that education is about partnerships and that's how we get things done in this state. The OPI is working with the Gear Up program providing the ACT for every junior in the state.

This year students had the opportunity to apply for college with a deferred application fee or free. Seventeen hundred students applied during College Application Week in November and Superintendent Juneau thanked the presidents of the universities and colleges for providing that opportunity for students in Montana. They are continuing to work on dual credit.

Superintendent said that the partnerships between K-12 education, the business community, and Higher Education are working and it will result in higher graduation rates and a better economic picture for Montana. She thanked Governor Bullock for his focus on education.

BOARD OF REGENTS REPORT

Angela McLean, Chair, acknowledged her appreciation for Pete Donovan for putting together the presentation on Common Core. Consistent education in all communities is a responsibility for all of us.

Regent McLean stated it was apparent there is not one single thing we can accomplish on our own. Collectively we have the ability to do what Montana students are counting on us to do. We need to work aggressively on their behalf. Governor Bullock's charge lit a fire last summer with goal of a 60% college graduation rate.

Regent McLean recognized the presidents of the University of Montana and Montana State University, and thanked them for being here and making things happen collaboratively across the state. The university system is working on the Complete College America program and trying to determine how we can best deliver education from a structured format. Commissioner Christian and the Montana University System are working to help students graduate and fulfill employment needs across the state.

The Regents have an educational task force working diligently to change positively how we deliver math and English across the state so remediation rates are reduced. Thirty-four percent of students who need remediation don't complete college. This needs to be addressed as a comprehensive mission across Montana. Early childhood education is a key component. Dual enrollment has grown by 53%, but we need to do more to make sure all students have that opportunity. The Regents are working with a dual enrollment task force and conversations are on-going on how to make sure we offer face to face dual enrollment on high school campuses. Until all students have access our job is not done.

The Commissioner's office is getting a research program director who will be working for veterans and working on workforce development. They are also working on how to grow conversations with Tribal Colleges and are continuing on working with the Board of Public Education and Superintendent Juneau to improve education outcomes in Montana.

COMPLETE COLLEGE MONTANA REPORT

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor reported on the Complete College Montana initiative. He stated that the initiative is employing game changing strategies and thanked Governor Bullock for setting the goal.

Complete College America is the parent initiative and is in 34 other states. The national initiative encourages five game changer strategies, i.e. performance funding, developmental education reform, full time is 15 credits, structured schedules, and guided pathways to success.

The Montana University System has developed action steps for each strategy, including flat spot tuition (for 12-18 credits) at all campuses, efforts to inform and incentivize students to take 15 credits per semester, alignment of degree program requirements, articulated pathways for specific majors, increased dual enrollment opportunities, promoting veterans' success and more.

WORKFORCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education, John Cech presented an update on the \$25 million grant awarded to two-year colleges from the U.S Department of Labor to promote workforce development. Montana formed a consortium of colleges to focus on three areas; energy workforce training, advanced manufacturing, and welding. They secured 57 business and industry partnerships. They are using short intensive blocks of training designed to give students training needed to move on or enter the work force. This is being done in concert with industry partners. Many of the courses being developed for the grant are a great fit for high school students earning dual credit.

Southwestern Montana has a rapidly growing advanced aeronautics company. They need to expand their workforce. UM-Western is working to expand their curriculum to meet the demand. Grant partnerships will be key for a Butte-based company to expand.

COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT

Commissioner Christian thanked Governor Bullock for his leadership. In 2006 they passed a strategic direction plan because of the need to enhance offerings and participation in two-year education programs, graduate education, and research. Montana is on its way to being a national leader in two-year education.

Dr. Moisey was hired to as Deputy Commissioner for Academic, Research and Student Affairs to foster a research agenda for four-year institutions to put Montana on the same forefront that two-year education has. Research in the university system is a 200 million dollar enterprise. The Montana University System has 73 patents and 280 licenses involving technologies that have come out of research developed on campuses. Studies show research on campuses spurs innovation. They are working to build collaboration among all players as they expand research on the campuses.

MontanaTech is an industry incubator with the Montana Launchpad program to encourage students and alumni to create jobs. Our campuses are keys for workforce development in state.

Commissioner Christian said the focus of higher education in next few years is on how we can do more to generate good things for state of Montana.

MAIN STREET MONTANA PROJECT REPORT

Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner, Pam Bucy reported on the Main Street Montana Project. The project's purpose is to promote creation, recruitment, and retention of jobs in Montana. The Washington Companies and D.A. Davidson & Company are involved in getting the project going. The project has broad support with over 1000 people participating from all over Montana. They sent out county surveys and received over 2000 responses. The committee is working with education leaders to develop a report. One of the main pillars of the project will be on educating and training the workforce. Business and industry partners are demanding focused training.

TRIBAL COLLEGE REPORT

Dr. David Yarlot, President of Tribal College Presidents Association reported that on March 16-18, 2014 the American Indian Higher Ed Consortium will have its annual student conference in Billings which involves three days of academic competition.

The things important to tribal colleges include the conversion from the GED test to the HiSET, dual enrollment, transferability of credits, and retaining their tribal languages. Tribal colleges have a low cost for education, but students need a seamless transferability of credits to the Montana University system.

They are also interested in workforce development and want to provide skilled workers so we can keep industry and businesses in state. They would like to continue research capabilities through partnerships with other universities and would like to be involved in the discussions on education in Montana.

Dr. Yarlot stated that distance learning and online coursework are a great benefit to tribal communities. Many students are single parents and can't pick up and leave their homes to go to universities.

They are trying to encourage students to learn their native languages because there is a sharp decrease in the numbers of people that can speak the native languages. They don't want them to be lost.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Bullock asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Governor Bullock recognized board members that would be leaving after this meeting.

Regent Todd Buchanan has made meaningful contributions to the board and has been a solid voice for access to education for all.

Regent Buchanan thanked the Governor and stated that partnerships are important among the executive and legislative branches. He stated it was refreshing to see a more collaborative nature during the 2013 session.

Patty Myers retired from teaching in 2009 after teaching for 39 years. She was the first chair of the Board of Public Education who was also a teacher. She was a Montana Teacher of the Year, a UM alumni and strong advocate for Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

Ms. Myers thanked the Governor and stated that she had seen a lot of changes over her 14 years on the Board of Public Education. She said that communication and cooperation were keys to getting the education agenda through last session. She sees good things happening in education in Montana.

CLOSING REMARKS/COMMENTS

Governor Bullock gave a history of how the Board of Education came to be and the participation of the legislature, executive branches, and the public. He congratulated the boards on working together to address educational challenges across the state and encouraged anyone that has concerns to bring them to him to get on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Denise Juneau

Superintendent Denise Juneau