Chapter 55 Update

The OPI is working in partnership with Region 17 Comprehensive Center to update ARM Chapter 55 on the 10-year revision cycle. Representing the OPI are Julie Murgel (Chief Operating Officer), Nathan Miller (Accreditation Program Director), and Tristen Loveridge (Project Manager). After engaging in a research phase, two working groups, Quality School Task Force and the Negotiated Rule Making Committee have been formed to complete the review and revision phase. Below are details and key dates for the two working groups.

**Standards of accreditation** are outlined in the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 20-7-101: Standards of accreditation for all schools must be adopted by the board of public education upon the recommendations of the superintendent of public instruction.

1. **Quality School Taskforce:**
The task force will be charged with making recommendations for ARM Chapter 55 revisions to the superintendent of public instruction and the negotiated rule committee. The task force orientation meeting was held on January 11, 2022, via Zoom and a two day in-person kick off meeting in Helena on January 25th and 26th. It is anticipated that the task force will need to meet at least seven times before April 2022 in order to complete its work. The scheduled is as follows:
- Tuesday, February 8 at 11am to 1pm (Via Zoom)
- Tuesday, February 22 at 11 am to 1 pm (Via Zoom)
- March 8 Helena in person (10 am to 5pm) & March 9 (8:00am to 2:00pm)
- Tuesday, March 22 at 11 am to 1pm (Via Zoom)
- Tuesday April 5 at 11 am to 1 pm (Via Zoom)
- Thursday, April 14 (10 am to 5 pm) & Friday, April 15 (8 am to 2 pm) in person in Helena

**Critical documents that the Task Force must create to meet its charge:**
- Develop a field survey document (To be deployed in February)
- Write a Concept Memorandum (current rule, proposed red-lined rule, proposed conceptual changes, rationale)

**School Quality Task Force Members:**
- Billi Taylor Harrison K-12 Schools District Superintendent
- Daniel Lee University of Montana Associate Professor
- David Pafford Noxon Public Schools Board Chairperson
- Emily Dean Montana School Board Association Director of Advocacy
- Gary Lusin Bozeman Public Schools Board Chairperson
- Gayle Venturelli Anaconda Public Schools Board Chairperson
- Heather HoyerGreat Falls Public Schools Assistant Superintendent 7-12
- Heather Jarrett Reed Point Public Schools District Superintendent
- Janelle Beers MT Small Schools Alliance Executive Director
- Jon Konen Corvallis K-12 Schools District Superintendent
- Tony Warren Turner Public Schools District Superintendent and Principal
2. Negotiated Rule Making Committee:

We will launch the Negotiated Rule Making Committee on February 24th. The Chapter 55 Negotiated Rule Making Committee will review and revise the recommendations from the Chapter 55 Task Force. The recommendations presented to the Board of Public Education must include an economic impact statement that the negotiated rulemaking committee prepares. An orientation meeting for the Negotiated Rule Making Committee is scheduled for February 24 3:00-5:00pm via Zoom. We will host an in-person kick off meeting in Helena on March 17th from 10am to 5:00pm and 18th from 8:00am to noon.

It is anticipated that this committee will need to meet at least ten times before July 2022 in order to complete its work. The purposed scheduled is as follows:

- February 24 3:00-5:00pm (2 hour Zoom)
- March 17 (10am to 5pm) & March 18th (8am to 2pm)-(in person, Helena)
- April 6 3:30-5:00pm (1.5 hour Zoom)
- April 13 3:30-5:00pm (1.5 hour Zoom)
- April 20 3:30-5:00pm (1.5 hour Zoom)
- May 2 (10 am to 5pm) & May 3 (8:00am to 2:00pm) (in person, Helena)
- May 18 3:30-5:00pm (1.5 hour Zoom)
- May 25 3:30-5:00pm (1.5 hour Zoom)
- June 1 3:30-5:00pm (1.5 hour Zoom)
- June 16 (10 am to 5pm) & June 17 (8:00am to 2:00pm) (in person, Helena)

Negotiated Rule Making Committee Members:

- Alex Ator  Roberts K-12 Schools  District Superintendent
- Stephan Schrebis  Glendive Public Schools  District Superintendent
- Craig Mueller  Havre Public Schools  District Superintendent
- Lisa Petersen  Westby K-12 Schools  Teacher
- Ruth Uecker  Great Falls Public Schools  Assistant Superintendent K-6
- Michele Paine  Flathead High School  Principal
- Melanie Blount-Cole  Frazer Public Schools  District Superintendent
- Adrea Lawrence  University of Montana Dean of College of Education
- Chris Olszewski  Billings Public Schools  Curriculum Director
- Christina Wekkin  Alberton Public Schools  Teacher
- Kitty Logan  Swan School  School District Trustee
- Kelly Dey  Sidney Public Schools  School District Trustee
- Curtis Smeby  Havre Public Schools  School District Trustee
- Krystal M. Zenter  Bridger  Parents
- Susan Lake  Ronan  Taxpayer
- Tara Hubing  Circle Schools K-12  Teacher
- Corey Barron  Lodge Grass Schools  Tribal Representative-Principal
- Sue Corrigan  Municipal Director  Municipal Director
- Rhonda Long  Fergus County  County School Superintendent

Ex-Officio Member:
- McCall Flynn  Board of Public Education  Executive Director
3. Proposed Timeline for Revisions to ARM 55 (Shared as information item at BPE on 11/18/21)

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**Facilitator:** Dr. Murgel, Nathan Miller

4. Communication:

- Meeting minutes, zoom links, and agendas, task force members can be found on top left of the OPI main webpage at [https://opi.mt.gov/](https://opi.mt.gov/)
  
  - Quality Task Force
  
  - Negotiated Rule Making Committee Members

- Stakeholders can attend the meetings via zoom.
- Public comments will be taken at the end of each meeting. Written public comment may be submitted to [tristen.belnap@mt.gov](mailto:tristen.belnap@mt.gov) and will be shared with the taskforce members and recorded in the meeting minutes. The public comment time frame will be published on the agenda, with a three minute limit per comment. Taskforce and Committee members will not respond or ask questions during public comment.