



Chapter 55 School Quality Task Force Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, March 9, 2022** **8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Facilitators begin meeting by reviewing the agenda, Task Force (TF) outcomes, purpose, group norms, and consensus. The TF participate in a “Snowfall Activity” in which they recap their forefront thoughts. Thoughts include how to measure a student, lowering class sizes, thoughts from the previous meetings public comment, thinking of accreditation differently, the TF responsibility, High School graduation standards, Ch55 revision process, and that local control is essential.

TF discussed conceptual changes for library media specialist staffing ratios, graduation requirements specifically on High School credits, accreditation, and local control. After each group discussed their conceptual change and explained their thoughts to the TF, time was taken to have deeper conversations on each topic.

The Library Media Specialist Staffing Ratio group discussed the research they had found with 37 other state requirements and changing the ratio required for library media specialists. TF asked the group questions around how the proposed changes would affect small schools with 126 students or less, utilizing the advocacy group that was mentioned in public comment, the difference between a school district and school system, and if MSSA could accommodate smaller B schools in a crunch. The TF begins to dive deeper in the topic by discussing how the math plays out in different sized school systems.

The Graduation Requirements group discussed the importance of looking at graduation requirements in terms of mastery of Montana standards to include competency-based diplomas. They looked at data from states with part or full competency-based education. The TF asks and discusses with the group if there are states the TF can use as an example to draft language, if the number of seat minutes would be removed, if a crosswalk with each of the delivery standards would be created, and the impact on middle and elementary schools.

The Local Control group discussed ensuring the TF does not add more burden to districts but rather try to consolidate some of the work they are already completing.

The Accreditation group discussed if Montana’s accreditation process is more of an approval process for accreditation and a possible two-tiered approach to accreditation. TF discussed if a definition of approval vs accreditation would be, if it could possibly create disparity or a competitive system, and if it would lead to addition of work.

TF discusses the timeline and process of the TF and Negotiated Rule Making (NRM) Committee.

Public comment is given and meeting is adjourned.