



Chapter 55 Negotiated Rule Making Meeting Summary

Thursday, March 17, 2022

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Facilitator begins meeting by giving each Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (NRM) member a moment to introduce themselves. Facilitator continues by reviewing meeting agenda, NRM purpose and process, the process of adoption of administrative rule, Ch55 revision roles, School Quality Task Force (TF) timeline, NRM timeline, the communication plan, and operating logistics. Facilitator proposes that consensus be defined as the absence of dissent and NRM adopts this definition. Facilitator asks the NRM to confirm that she is the facilitator of the committee and each of the members be confirmed to form the committee.

Facilitator reviews and discusses ground rules for NRM meetings. Ground rules include: 1. Any committee member who dissents from a proposed action must propose a solution. 2. No outside interruptions – cell phones and messaging applications off during session. 3. “speak now or forever hold your peace” – if you wish to dissent, do it now. 4. No substitutes or replacements for committee members. 5. Each committee member must have full voting ability. 6. Committee members will receive materials for future meetings one week in advance of meeting.

Office of Public Instruction (OPI) provides Accreditation overview. OPI reviews history of accreditation, Montana Code Annotated, Chapter 55 ARM, and program area and content standards. NRM shares thoughts on what the group hopes the TF has addressed so far. Thoughts include how library duties have changed, library media representation, mental health and counseling for students, and athletic programs in preparation for graduation.

OPI reviews the federal accountability system, and accreditation framework and process. NRM discusses what information about accreditation they knew and what they learned. Comments include some accreditation requirements lead to deficiency faster than others, California accreditation examples, and that accreditation is a one-time snapshot in the fall.

OPI reviews the response to accreditation. NRM discuss situations which cause variance to standards. Discussion includes rise in student population pushing districts into deficiency, how districts are consistently deficient in areas, experiences on the variance board, and filling positions through emergency authorizations.

OPI reviews corrective plans, intensive assistance, and shares accreditation data. NRM discuss observations, initial thoughts, interpretations, and implications of deviation data and five-year deviation trends. Discussion includes comments around disaggregating the data, finding correlational data between deficiencies and assurance standards, where and how students should be successful, how socioeconomic environments impact students, and staffing library media specialist ratio.

Public comment is given, and meeting is adjourned.