



## **Chapter 55 School Quality Task Force Meeting Summary**

### **Thursday, April 14, 2022**

### **10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Task Force (TF) members discussed the timeline of work. Discussion included comments about the process moving too quickly; rushing may cause unintended negative implications; concern the TF has not seen the results of the survey yet; if statute requires revision every ten years; and possible legal implications. After discussion, and at the end of the meeting, a motion was made and passed unanimously to request additional time for the TF to continue its work from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

TF members discussed the proposed language and work done in the Working Copy – Conceptual Memorandum. Topics discussed included measures of student growth, library media specialist staffing ratios, boards of trustees, graduation requirements, high school requirements, middle grades, elementary grades, and charter schools.

Discussion of student growth focused on the definitions of growth and proficiency. TF members presented proposed changes to both definitions. TF members discussed the inclusion of “learning” and TF members worked to find proposed language to capture the correct intent.

Discussion on the library media specialist staffing ratio focused on questions posed to the TF in written public comment presented to the TF at the April 14 work session, clarification of the term “school systems,” and a proposed new staffing ratio. TF members requested to have further information to help provide answers to the questions posed in the April 14 public comment.

Discussion on the board of trustees focused on the proposal to add a sentence to ARM 10.55.701, “The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in the elected board of trustees.” After discussion, TF moved and voted unanimously to forward the recommendation to the Superintendent.

Discussion on graduation requirements and high school credits focused on social studies standards, equivalency language, and proposed language changes to 10.55.906 (3). TF members requested to see data on how many MT schools offer a government or civics course. TF members also discussed definition of “arts,” STEAM electives, and the sciences in relation to elementary and middle grades.

TF members discussed proposed addition of a charter school definition. Discussion included comments around the Bozeman charter school, concerns about private entities entering MT through this change, and support for proposed ARM language changes.

TF members reviewed accreditation processes of Alaska, South Dakota, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, and Wyoming and discussed takeaways from each state’s approach to accreditation and what they feel MT could consider (as both the ideal process and the minimal requirements) as it examines its own accreditation process.

Public comment was given and meeting adjourned.