Chapter 57 Research and Review Task Force Meeting Summary
Thursday, October 14, 2021
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Facilitators shared information found from accreditation director Nathan Miller. Julie Murgel shares the information to help inform the Task Force (TF) that condensing the ARM 10.57.415 – 10.57.417 would not have negative impact on rule.

Facilitators began with discussion in subchapter 4 Class 3 Administrative License 10.57.413 – 10.57.419. The TF discuss the parallel change of 6 semester credits, or 60 professional development units offered to teachers to be given to administrators as well. TF conversation leads the group to feel this change belongs in subchapter 5 and tables the discussion for the time being. TF discusses 10.57.414 (d), as the language addresses a very small portion of Montana. Ultimately, the TF decides if a situation were to ever arise which landed in (d) it would be considered an unusual case and taken to the BOPE. TF votes to remove the suggested language 10.57.414 (d) from ARM. The TF votes on Class 3 Administrative license changes 10.57.414-10.57.419. The vote passes and is recommended to the Superintendent.

Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen addresses the TF and expresses her gratitude to each TF member’s commitment to the work being done in Chapter 57. She states it is making a significant difference in Montana schools and getting licensed individuals into schools.

Facilitators share information noted from the CTAE at the OPI regarding Class 4 CTE Licenses in 10.57.420 – 10.57.421. TF discuss reducing the current requirement of 80 hours of professional development to 60 hours. TF mention that if the CTAE unit at the OPI feels it would help it should be recommended. TF votes on the reduction of 80 hours to 60, and the vote passes unanimously. The TF votes on Class 4 CTE Licenses 10.57.420 – 10.57.421. Language passes and is recommended to the Superintendent.

TF discuss Class 5 Provisional License 10.57.424 – 10.57.432. TF discusses if “and/or” language should be included in 10.57.427. TF voiced coursework is important for superintendents to accomplish a more robust training. It is mentioned the language may streamline the way courses are offered. Logistical items are discussed in the section and are corrected. TF discusses if “mentorship and induction” should include “and” or not. The group concludes mentorship and induction needs to be defined in subchapter 1. The language can be addressed as needed once subchapter 1 is voted on. The TF votes on suggested language in 10.57.424 – 10.57.432. Language passes and is recommended to the Superintendent.

TF discusses Subchapter 3 Endorsements. TF members express both opposition and support for the language. Concerns are voiced about individuals who are not qualified to teach in specific fields like some science lab courses could be potentially dangerous to students. Comment is made that if the individual is licensed and has been deemed qualified to teach giving the opportunity to become endorsed in areas via the PRAXIS would enable the individual to show they are versed in the content. Comment is also made that smaller districts would benefit from this change as it would enable teachers to be endorsed in more areas without going to school. TF discusses the alignment of National Board Certifications to MT endorsements. TF votes on the language in 10.58.301. Vote is drawn with 6 yes and 6 no votes. Julie Murgel suggests the details of both opponent and proponent discussion will be provided to the Superintendent for consideration.
TF discusses subchapter 2 General Provisions. TF voices opposition to the language around background checks. Conversation revolves around the idea that these requirements could be made at the district level allowing local control. A suggestion made from the Feedback Group in previous meetings was brought up that rather than requiring a fingerprint-based check to require a name-based check which can be completed within a days’ time. The TF votes to remove the suggested language from ARM 10.57.201A. The vote passes and language regarding renewal background checks is not recommended to the Superintendent. TF votes to replace word “renewal” with “Professional Development” in 10.57.215 – 10.57.218. Vote passes and language is recommended to the Superintendent. TF discusses language around reciprocity for military spouses. TF discusses and decides language needs to include “and/or dependents”. Some additional logistical changes are made. TF votes on suggested language in 10.57.221. Vote passes and language is recommended to the Superintendent. TF votes on language in 10.57.222. Vote passes and language is recommended to the Superintendent.

Language is brought to the TF concerning Class 8 Dual Credit Licenses in subchapter 4. TF discusses proposed language. TF votes to accept language in 10.57.437. Vote passes and language is recommended to the Superintendent.

TF discusses Subchapter 1 General Information. TF clarifies that language in 10.57.102 (b) should include and not or. TF votes on the suggested language in 10.57.102. Vote passes and language is recommended to the Superintendent. TF discusses 10.57.107 and moves to vote on the language. Vote passes and language is recommended to the superintendent.

All recommendations will be presented to the Superintendent for consideration. ARM tracker will continue to be updated as recommendations are moved forward. TF is adjourned until further notice.