BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2020 Zoom Meeting

<u>Thursday May 7, 2020</u> 8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schottle called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Ms. Stockton took roll call and the Chair welcomed guests.

Board members present: Dr. Darlene Schottle, Chair; Ms. Tammy Lacey, Vice Chair; Mr. Jesse Barnhart; Ms. Mary Jo Bremner; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Mr. Jeremiah Lynch; Ms. Anne Keith; Ms. Paris Becker; Ms. Paige Lepard. Ex Officio Members: Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE; Ms. McCall Flynn, Governor's Office; Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen. Staff present: Mr. Pete Donovan, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant. Guests: Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Patty Muir; OPI; Ms. Kara Flath, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Ms. Ashley McGrath; OPI; Ms. Jule Walker, MTSBA; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Mr. Marco Ferro, MFPE; Dr. Kadene Drummer, Stone Child College; Ms. Jennifer Smith, MACIE; Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI; Mr. Paul Furthmyre, Interim Superintendent MSDB; Ms. Kelly Cresswell, Reach Higher Montana; Mr. Nathan Miller, OPI;

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

CONSENT AGENDA

<u>Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.

Ms. Quinlan noted a motion was missing in the minutes which will be corrected before posted.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA

<u>Mr. Jerry Lynch moved to adopt the agenda as presented.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

REPORTS – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 1-6)

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Dr. Darlene Schottle Chair Schottle thanked everyone who is working from home and thanked all the school districts across the state for the work they are doing during this unusual time to continue to bring education to students across Montana. The Chair noted that Mr. Paul Furthmyre is the interim Superintendent at the MSDB and although a search was underway for the Superintendent position, due to the Covid 19 crisis, the search has been suspended and Mr. Furthmyre has been offered the interim position for the 2020-2021 school year.

<u>Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the MSDB Interim Superintendent</u> <u>Contract for 2020-2021.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey

Ms. Lacey thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his hard work and willingness to step in and take the position.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan thanked all the Education Associations for all the work they have done to provide guidance to school districts during the Covid 19 crisis to continue to provide learning for students across Montana. Mr. Donovan discussed the Zoom meeting of the MUS 2-year education interim group, the bi-weekly Covid meetings held by Superintendent Arntzen's office, and all the work that has gone on remotely over the last two months. Mr. Donovan reviewed the three applications for the CSPAC appointments for the Board before requesting approval of the applicants.

<u>Ms. Anne Keith moved to approve the CSPAC Appointments for: K-8</u> <u>Teacher, Barbara Brown; K-12 Specialist Theresa Marchant; and Post-</u> <u>Secondary, Dr. Trent Atkins.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Ms. Lacey noted the importance of the CSPAC and the work the Council does and provided a brief historical background of the Council. Ms. Lacey thanked the members of the Council for their work.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – 15 Minutes Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen thanked all the OPI staff for their continued telework since the Covid 19 crisis began, and reviewed happenings at the OPI since the March BPE meeting. The Superintendent welcomed the new Board member, and thanked Mr. Donovan and the Education Advocates for their continued work as well. The Superintendent discussed a recent meeting with the State PTA Association and relayed how the \$41 million received by the OPI from the CARES Grant will be allocated. The Superintendent discussed the Montana Learn Task Force, how individuals can apply, and what the task force will be doing. Also reviewed was the Flexibility Task Force and the School Safety Group, as well as the reopening of the Willow Creek School District. Superintendent Arntzen answered Board member questions.

Item 4 COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S REPORT – 15 Minutes Angela McLean

Ms. McLean updated the Board on work at the Commissioner's Office during Covid 19 especially the Task Force working on determining the reopening of campuses for fall 2020 and what that might look like. Ms. McLean reviewed the collaboration with OPI to offer the ACT to this year's high school juniors in the Fall of 2020 due to Covid 19, and FAQ Guidance documents for admissions requirements for students who are unable to take the ACT due to Covid 19. Ms. McLean also discussed a Financial Aid Survey

sent out to High School Counselors and continued work between OCHE and High School Counselors to assist students during this crisis, a presentation done at the CSPAC meeting on Micro credentials, scholarships, Teacher Recruitment and Retention Task Force update, and the Virtual College Signing Day held the previous day in conjunction with Reach Higher Montana. Ms. McLean answered Board questions.

Item 5 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORT – 15 Minutes McCall Flynn

Ms. Flynn updated the Board on the work the Governor's office has been doing for schools due to the Covid 19 Crisis, assisting schools with remote learning, reopening in Phase 1, and helping districts deal with the ongoing pandemic. Ms. Flynn discussed assisting schools with decisions on graduation ceremonies, transportation, and encouraging districts to work with their local public health office to determine what is best for each specific district. Ms. Flynn also discussed the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund monies the state received for local education agencies and higher education as a result of Covid 19.

Item 6 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – 15 Minutes Paris Becker

Ms. Becker thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Public Education and allowing her the opportunity to provide input from a student perspective. Ms. Becker discussed how her local school has been handling remote learning, Zoom meetings for the Student Council, and introduced the newly appointed Student Representative Ms. Paige Lephard Ms. Lephard introduced herself to the Board and noting that she is eager to learn and to meet everyone in person at a future meeting, and talked about activities she is involved with. Chair Schottle welcomed Ms. Lephard, and Ms. Lacey and Ms. Bremner thanked Ms. Becker for her work and welcomed Ms. Lephard to the Board.

✤ MSDB LIAISON - Mary Jo Bremner (Item 7)

Item 7 MSDB REPORT – (ACTION) – 20 Minutes Paul Furthmyre

Ms. Bremner opened the item and turned the report over to Mr. Paul Furthmyre. Mr. Furthmyre thanked the Board for extending his interim contract to allow for some consistency for the MSDB. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed the MSDB Committee meeting the previous week. Mr. Furthmyre reviewed school enrollment numbers, how students on campus are learning, how meals are being provided to the students, and how the remote learning process is working using Google Classroom for learning. Mr. Furthmyre noted that this has brought up the possibility of how remote learning might be an option for some students in the future, even once the school reopens for in class learning. Mr. Furthmyre noted that a survey was sent out to the parents regarding the school opening back up and 66% asked to remain closed, and 84% of staff requested to remain closed. There will be a small virtual graduation ceremony for the 4 graduating seniors. Mr. Furthmyre noted the school's accreditation and ongoing work with the Governor's Budget Office with Nancy Hall.

Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to require the continued closure of MSDB for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year due to the Covid 19 pandemic and to require continued provision of educations services via remote learning. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Ms. Quinlan commended *Mr.* Furthmyre for surveying staff and parents regarding the closure. Motion passed unanimously.

<u>Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the MSDB 2020-2021</u> <u>Academic Calendar.</u> Motion seconded by Mr. Jesse Barnhart. Ms. Lacey noted that Mr. Kelly from MSDB also serves on the Great Falls Public Schools Calendar Committee so that the two schools are on the same page. Question from Ms. Quinlan if remote learning is still in place if the calendar might change. Mr. Furthmyre noted if that happens the school will review the calendar for possible changes.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

<u>Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the 2020-2021 Golden</u> <u>Triangle Cooperative Agreement for the MSDB.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

<u>Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the Human Resource</u> <u>Hiring for Melanie Wiley.</u> Motion seconded by

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Furthmyre recognized staff who are retiring and moving on from the school and thanked them for their work. Chair Schottle thanked Mr. Furthmyre for his work and noted that the Board misses this May meeting on the MSDB Campus and hopes to be back next year. Ms. Lacey offered condolences to Mr. Furthmyre and the staff on the passing of one MSDB employee. Ms. Bremner noted that the longevity of the retiring staff will be missed.

MACIE LIAISON – Mary Jo Bremner (Item 8)

Item 8 MACIE REPORT – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Jennifer Smith

Ms. Bremner reviewed the virtual meeting MACIE held on Zoom yesterday and turned the report over to Ms. Jennifer Smith who updated the Board on what the MACIE has been working on since the March Board meeting report. Mr. Donovan reviewed the Class 7 License created twenty-five years ago allowing tribes to have licensed individuals to teach Native languages.

<u>Ms. Mary Jo Bremner moved to approve the nomination of Ms.</u> <u>LeEllen Bundy McLeod to MACIE.</u> Motion seconded by Mr. Jerry Lynch.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Items 8-11)

Item 9

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT/FEDERAL UPDATE – (INFORMATION) – 15 Minutes Julie Murgel

Ms. Murgel reported on the waivers the Office of Public Instruction has received due to the Covid 19 Crisis. Waivers have afforded the state flexibility in Assessment, Accountability, and the Federal Report Card. Ms. Murgel explained the waivers to the Board and answered questions. Ms. Tammy Lacey thanked Ms. Murgel for the FAQ document provided in the Agenda packet.

Item 10 APPROVE K-12 SCHOOL PAYMENT SCHEDULE – (ACTION) -15 Minutes Kara Flath

Ms. Flath reported to the Board that the Spring deadline for schools to report Traffic Education numbers to the OPI is coming up and that due to the current pandemic, the OPI is considering extending the reporting deadline. Ms. Lacey asked if because this is in Administrative Rule if the Board needed to approve the deadline extension. Mr. Stutz noted that the Board would need to notice a separate meeting to address this deadline extension. A discussion took place as to whether the Board or OPI has jurisdiction over this rule. Mr. Stutz will research and report back to the Board.

Ms. Flath reviewed the proposed payment schedule for the Board noting that no significant changes have been made to the schedule from the previous year other than updating the dates.

<u>Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the K-12 School Payment</u> <u>Schedule as presented.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Madalyn Quinlan.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 11 PRESENTATION OF MUS STUDENT PORTAL – (INFORMATION ONLY) Angela McLean – OCHE, Kelly Cresswell – Executive Director Reach Higher Montana – 20 Minutes

Ms. McLean and Ms. Kelly Cresswell, Executive Director of Reach Higher Montana presented the Student Portal accessible via the Reach Higher Montana Website for students to research Certificate Programs, 2 Year Programs, and 4 year Programs in Montana, and how the application process may work in the future for students to apply to MUS schools with one application. Ms. McLean and Ms. Cresswell answered Board member questions.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE – Jesse Barnhart (Items 12-17)

Item 12

APPROVE REVISED TIMELINE FOR CONTENT STANDARDS REVISION – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Colet Bartow

Ms. Bartow explained the reasons behind the need to revise the timeline for the Content Standards Revisions due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Ms. Bartow reviewed the five content areas that are being revised and asked for Board approval for the revised timeline.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the Revised MAPA Timeline</u> for Adoption of Program and Content Delivery Standards. Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Question from Ms. Lacey on the revised timeline. No additional questions. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 13 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 INITIAL AND RENEWAL VARIANCE TO STANDARDS APPLICATIONS – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Patty Muir

Ms. Muir noted that the May Board meeting is typically the meeting she brings addendums to the Final Accreditation Report but noted that there are no addendums this year to be approved. Chair Schottle asked Ms. Muir to name the seven schools into the record: South School, Hellgate Elementary Primary Grades and Lower Grades, Polson Middle School, Shelby Elementary, Shepard Middle School, Flathead High School, and Highland Park School.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the recommendation of State</u> <u>Superintendent Arntzen for the seven requests for initial Variance</u> <u>to Standards Applications.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

Question from Ms. Lacey if all variances were for Library Media and Ms. Muir confirmed they are. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Muir requested approval of the three renewal applications for Variance to Standards for: Troy 7-8, Elysian Middle School, and Glacier Gateway Elementary.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the recommendation of State</u> <u>Superintendent Arntzen for the three requests for renewal Variance</u> <u>to Standards Applications.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Anne Keith.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 14 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN STEP 2 OF INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS – (ACTION) – 45 Minutes Patty Muir, Nathan Miller

Ms. Muir reviewed the Step 2 of the Intensive Assistance process for the Board and introduced the Circle School district who presented their plan to the Board. Ms. Muir recommended approval of the plan.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the 2019-2020 Corrective Plan</u> <u>and Timeline for Circle High School.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Tammy Lacey.

Question from Ms. Lacey for the Circle Superintendent regarding elimination of the Art program and the Superintendent noted it has been moved to an Art Club which has had good participation levels so far.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Muir reviewed the plan for Hot Springs 7-8 and Hot Springs High School and introduced the Superintendent and Board Chair for Hot Springs who presented their plan to the Board. Ms. Muir asked for Board approval of the Corrective Plan.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the 2019-2020 Corrective Plan</u> and Timeline for Hot Springs 7-8 and Hot Springs High School. Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

Question from Ms. Lacey for Superintendent regarding endorsements for the teachers being moved.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Muir introduced the Superintendent and Board Chair for Rosebud School to review their Corrective Plan for the Board. Ms. Muir asked for Board approval of the Corrective Plan.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the 2019-2020 Corrective Plan</u> <u>and Timeline for Rosebud School.</u> Motion seconded by Mr. Jerry Lynch.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Muir briefly reviewed the next group of districts which consist of Frazer Elementary, Libby Elementary and Libby Middle School, Rosebud School, Southside School, and Thompson Falls Elementary School, are all approved by the Superintendent and Ms. Muir asked for Board approval.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the 2019-2020 Corrective</u> <u>Plans and Timelines for the above listed schools.</u> Motion seconded by Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 15 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 CORRECTIVE PLANS AND TIMELINES OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN ONGOING ASSISTANCE OF THE INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PROCESS (ACTION) – 15 minutes Patty Muir

Ms. Muir noted that the OPI and the Superintendent have approved the following plans: Roy 6-8, Roy HS, Two Eagle River High School, Sidney High School, Lustre School, Wolf Point 7-8, Box Elder High School, Conrad High School, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Elementary School, Northern Cheyenne Tribal 7-8, and Northern Cheyenne Tribal High School.

<u>Mr. Jesse Barnhart moved to approve the 2019-2020 Corrective</u> <u>Plans and Timelines of Accredited Schools in Ongoing Assistance</u> <u>of the Intensive Assistance Process.</u> Motion seconded by Mr. Jerry Lynch.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Anne Keith (Item 16)

Item 16 ASSESSMENT REPORT – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 Minutes Ashley McGrath

Ms. McGrath reported to the Board how the Covid 19 Crisis has affected the Spring 2020 Assessments, reviewing the waivers for the Spring testing approved by the Board in March, that high school juniors will be able to take the ACT in the fall of 2020, flexibilities in assessment, remote learning tools, and an educator spotlight on Ms. Paula Schultz. Ms. McGrath answered Board member questions.

* LICENSURE COMMITTEE – Tammy Lacey (Items 17-20)

Item 17 REQUEST FOR ONE-YEAR EXTENSION FOR BOTH PROVISIONAL LICENSES AND THIRD YEAR INTERNSHIPS EXPIRING 6/30/2020 – (ACTION) -15 Minutes

Kris Thatcher

Ms. Thatcher explained for the Board the reasons why the OPI is requesting extensions. Educational Testing Services (ETS) had to begin closing testing centers for PRAXIS due to Covid 19. Currently ETS is implementing a PRAXIS at home test, but not all necessary tests for license holders, will be available. Therefore, those expiring license holders will be able to take the necessary test. Ms. Thatcher answered questions regarding the Internship expirations.

<u>Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the one-year expiration</u> <u>extension request for Montana provisional license holders and</u> <u>third-year internships and extend license or internship expiration</u> <u>date from 6/30/2020 to 6/30/2021.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

Ms. Lacey noted that this supports teachers and schools and that she appreciates the recommendation coming forward from the OPI.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 18 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE STATE EXIT REPORT AND REGULAR ACCREDITATION STATUS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT STONE CHILD COLLEGE (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson introduced the members of the team and reviewed the Site Visit at the school for the Board and highlighted several areas on the report for the Board. Dr. Peterson answered Board member questions and a brief review for new Board member Lynch.

<u>Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the State Exit Report and</u> <u>Regular Accreditation Status of the Education Department at Stone</u> <u>Child College.</u> Motion seconded by Mr. Jerry Lynch.

Ms. Lacey noted the importance of this program for Tribal schools and for providing teachers in rural Montana.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Drummer and staff at Stone Child College spoke to the program and thanked the Accreditation team for their work and for the Board for approval of full Accreditation.

 Item 19
 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE REQUEST TO REINSTATE TWO CURRICULAR PROGRAMS: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson reviewed for the Board that the University of Providence had previously requested a termination of the Education department at the University of Providence, but in November the Board of Trustees voted to bring back the Elementary Education Program and Health and Physical Education Program, and now these programs are up for approval for reinstatement before the Board. Dr. Redinger and Dr. Leslie Lott from the University of Providence reviewed the process the school has undergone over the past year for the Board and how they are here now requesting these two programs be reinstated. Dr. Peterson reviewed the process moving forward. Clarifying questions were asked and answered.

<u>Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the University of Providence</u> <u>Request to Reinstate Two Curricular Programs: Elementary</u> <u>Education and Health and Physical Education.</u> Motion seconded by Ms. Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 20 RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF MONTANA QUALIFYING SCORES FOR PRAXIS SUBJECT ASSESSMENTS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (5652) 5-12, AND TEACHING READING (5206) K-12 – (ACTION) – 15 Minutes Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

Dr. Peterson reviewed this item for the Board before requesting Board approval.

<u>Ms. Tammy Lacey moved to approve the Montana Qualifying Scores</u> for PRAXIS Subject Assessments in Computer Science (5652) 5-12, and Teaching Reading (5206) K-12. Motion seconded by...

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 21 LEGAL UPDATE – (INFORMATION ONLY) – 15 Minutes Rob Stutz

Mr. Stutz briefly updated the Board that in researching further the discussion regarding Transportation rules under Item 10, is an OPI rule, not a Board rule. The court has not returned the file to the Board in the Oelker's matter and noted an ongoing discussion between the MSDB and the Transportation department regarding busing for the MSDB students during the school closure.

SEXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Darlene Schottle (Item 22)

Item 22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – 30 Minutes Dr. Darlene Schottle

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS July 15-17, 2020, Helena

Strategic Planning Meeting CSPAC/BPE Joint Meeting CSPAC Annual Report Annual HiSET Report Annual Special Education Report Assessment Update Federal Update Educator Preparation Program Report OPI Staffing Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Observation from Board member Lynch regarding recommendations from MT PEC regarding graduation ceremonies of honor students and a possible lottery. Chair Schottle noted that it is local control and the recommendations were only guidelines. Chair Schottle noted that it was information only from the associations and not something the Board was approving.

Ms. Lacey thanked Chair Schottle for running the meeting today and the Zoom process worked extremely well today.

ADJOURN

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