

SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee

Meeting Notes 11-13-20



SAM Office or [ZOOM](#), 8:30 – 9:30 am

Invited: Rick Duncan (Chair & MASS), Tamra Covington (MCASE), Paul Furthmyre (MASSP), Jack Eggensperger (MACSS), Rich Lawrence (META), Matt Lewis (MAEMSP). SAM office: Kirk Miller, Kim Scofield

Jack Eggensperger not in attendance.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review of [SAM DASC Meeting Notes 7-9-20](#)
3. Review of Election and Impact on the Upcoming Legislative Session
 - [Changes in Legislators from 2019 to 2021](#) and [2021 Legislators List](#)

Kirk and Rick reviewed the changes in legislators. Several educators or education leaders will be serving during the 2021 session others unfortunately have agendas that are not necessarily positive for public education. The challenges that we will be facing will be that the state revenue has decreased and we will be working against privatizing education with public funds. Kirk plans to add the list of legislators to today's SAM Update and encourage SAM members to reach out to their legislators. The parties will soon be selecting legislators who will serve in leadership positions.

- Political Party Policy Objectives – [Montana's Best 2021](#)

Kirk reviewed Section E of the plan:

1. School Choice. Many different avenues to go down. Pennsylvania HB 1800.
 - 2) Education Savings Account: AND money follows child., what is not spent can be banked for college fund.
 - 3) Espinoza Case- Rewrite tax credit scholarship. \$150 was too low to get involvement. Arizona model, cap state total at \$30m, and 80% of individual.
 - 4) Tax Credit for private tuition.
 - 5) Shift funding for enhanced career and tech education.
- Governor Elect Gianforte's [Montana Come Back Plan](#)

Governor-Elect Gianforte has reached out to Dan Schmidt and Hannah Nieskens to serve on a COVID task force. He has also contacted Dustin Gordon to serve on an education task force. During his campaign, he stated that we need to get more money to the classroom by eliminating education regulations and mandates so that we can attract and retain the very best educators and increase their pay. The problem with this is that he will not want to spend state dollars to increase teacher wages.

- [67th Legislature 2021 - Schedule](#) and Format and [Bill Lookup](#)
- [Bill Drafts](#) impacting Education ([Vaping Request](#), [Base Teacher Pay Email](#), [Health Insurance](#)) – Rick/Kirk

Kirk reviewed the request for SAM to sign on to a letter of support to protect Montana kids from being targeted with flavored tobacco products. SAM has position statements and resolutions that support this request.

Paul Furthmyre made a motion for SAM to sign on to the letter of support; Matt Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MT-PEC has been working on a plan that would incentivize districts to increase wages and receive an extra quality educator payment. MT-PEC is also working on a bill draft that focuses on a health insurance pool. This is similar to the bill that did not pass in the 2019 session. Since this is an action priority for SAM, Kirk thinks we need to seek a legislator in leadership to carry the bill.

MT-PEC will hold a legislative preview for the Boards of Directors of each organization and the SAM DA Steering Committee in early December.

- Federal Issues potential impact on Montana Education and COVID
 - [AASA A New Education Vision for a New Administration](#)
 - National [COVID-19 School Response Dashboard](#), a project of AASA, NASSP, NAESP and numerous other partners, to systematically map schools' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 9/23/20, the dashboard went live, and will continually be updated with information received from Superintendents and Principals nationwide. The [real-time dashboard](#) has information on cases by school types/level, what learning modes these schools are using (hybrid, in-person, etc), and mitigation measures being employed by the school. Montana has 75 school districts providing data to the National Dashboard.

Kirk and Rick reviewed the AASA resources.

4. Consideration of SAM Revised Legislative Platform

- [SAM 2020 Advocacy Priorities Positions Resolutions Approved 10-14-20](#)
- [Interim Committee Actions on Issues Impacting SAM Advocacy Priorities](#)

Rick stated that there are 900 bill drafts so far with 64 of them dealing with education - some of them coming out of the interim education committee. 5 of the 64 draft bills deal specifically with privatization. Two preschool bills came out of the interim education committee ([PD 0009](#) & [PD 0018](#)). PD 0009 is a true public preschool bill that SAM would support.

- [MTSBA Revised Analysis of Legislative Platform](#)

Kirk reviewed the MTSBA revised analysis platform pointing our connections to the SAM platform. Reviewed the 5-year ANB averaging as a means for budget recovery for the drain of students out of schools during the pandemic. SAM promotes a hold harmless approach so the recovery does not cause harm into the future. 3300 MT students have left public schools and are now homeschooling or attending a private school. Kirk also stated that OPI will need to be held

accountable to not base funding on the number of minutes of instruction. Superintendent Arntzen has stated that this will be the case but it is something that SAM will need to watch.

- Discussion about potential revisions SAM Legislative Platform – begin with a review of Action priorities and analyze based on the possibility of gaining legislative traction in the 2021 session

Kirk thinks that because of the revenue shortfall it may be necessary to remove the action label on some of the SAM positions and resolutions - possibly those dealing with technology.

Following the discussion, it was decided that Kirk and Rick will review the SAM advocacy platform and create a document with a rationale for reprioritizing priorities and changing the designations of any position statement and resolutions. This document will be shared with the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee (DASC) during the first week of December to finalize. It will then be used as part of the SAMLN21 training. This training will be scheduled for the first part of January. The DASC would like communication to the SAMLN21 to be the same as it was during the 2019 session with the addition of regular Zoom calls with the SAMLN21 members.

5. SAM Legislative Advocacy Process

- [2021 MT Legislative Preview for MT-PEC Boards of Director Meeting on 11/16/20](#) – Postponed until early December
- [Call for SAMLN21](#) and [Current Members](#)
- Establishing Training for SAMLN21 – See [SAMLN19 Training](#)

See above for suggestions on SAMLN21 training and implementation.

6. Other Items for DASC Discussion

Adjourned at 9:55 am