

## **REGION V MASSP MINUTES**

### **November 19, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Shelly Weight (FHS - Forsyth), Matt Torix (CHS - Colstrip), Jake Gion (BHS – Baker), Vinson Gundlach (CCDHS – Miles City).

The Region V members met over Zoom. Shelly talked about the legislative priorities set during the Delegate Assembly in June for the upcoming session. She asked for a volunteer, in addition to herself, to be part of the Legislative Network to push out information to the group and to contact area legislators as needed. Matt Torix volunteered to be part of the network. Shelly will send him the link to sign up.

A discussion ensued about the number of students that are leaving our public schools for different online high schools. They are registering (hopefully) through the County Superintendent for home school. In light of this, the group believes we really need to strengthen our laws requiring reporting and testing of home school students. It will not be an action item for SAM this session, as it was listed as support only. This is something the group hopes to see added as “action” in the future.

With that, Shelly reported the opening on the Public Board of Education. The group gave insights into what they saw as the role of the board and how it might help to have a local representative on that board. Right now, a lot of our additional work load in reporting is coming from ESSA laws, in which the board has little control. They do, however, help oversee teacher licensure and there are some roadblocks with out-of-state teachers that could be lessened to help with our critical shortage.

The group discussed new learning modalities they have implemented due to Covid restrictions and to help their online learners. Google Classroom and Schoology are in place along with programs such as Kami for PDF scanning. This led to a discussion about Learning Management platforms. Shelly said that SchoolMaster, which they use, is no longer supported after this year. She asked about the groups’ perceptions of Infinite Campus vs. PowerSchool.

Members shared their perceptions on staff morale with the Covid crisis. For the most part, teachers are doing well. Some things being given to teachers to help include: a per online student stipend of \$300, a day to deal only with online students, gift certificates and movies, etc.

When asked the best time for future meetings, Wednesdays were listed as potentially the best. Shelly said that is their early-out days, so 1 p.m. would probably be the time. Matt said that Zoom works really well for these meetings, and our attendance should improve now that we are all Zoom veterans.

Submitted by,  
Shelly Weight, Director