



**MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**  
**9:00 – 10:00 am**

**Purpose:** To increase effective communication with MASS leadership to support regional meeting discussion of contemporary education issues

In Attendance: Dr. Greg Dern, Dave Wick, Casey Klasna, Allison Evertz, Thom Peck, Cal Ketchum, Nick Schumacher, Dr. Mike Perry, Rick Duncan, Scott Kinney, Elliott Crump, Dr. Laurie Barron, Tony Warren, Tobin Novasio, Kirk Miller, Kim Scofield, Marcus Meyer

Not in attendance: Hannah Nieskens, Dan Schmidt

Guests: Sarah Swanson, Scott Lemmon, Brock Tessman, Dylan Klappmeier

Dr. Dern called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

**Items for Discussion** - *MASS President Dr. Greg Dern, Presiding*

1. Consideration of [MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 12-14-21](#) [Action]

Tony Warren made a motion to approve the minutes; Casey Klasna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. [MASS Strategic Plan](#) Working Group Update - *Dr. Greg Dern*

Dr. Dern reviewed the progress being made on the strategic plan. Kirk referenced the working document that includes an environmental scan of the issues (Demographics, Business/Economic Climate, Legislation/Regulation, Technology/Science, and Politics/Social Values) that lead to the writing of mega issue questions. A meeting is scheduled for January 18th during which the group will be looking at the goals and objectives in the current strategic plan.

3. 2022 MASS/METAtechED Spring Conference Planning ([Schedule draft](#)) - *Dr. Greg Dern*

Dr. Dern reported that he has met with Carol Phillips, META President Elect, and that they have begun planning the conference. The tentative theme is *Hand in Hand*. Kirk stated that MCASE has expressed interest in joining the conference. Dr. Dern will include Sara Novak, MCASE President, in the next planning meetings.

- Retirements
- Awards - pins, Conference incentive
- Board Meeting
- Business Meeting
- President Elect election intro of candidates

#### 4. Workforce Initiatives – Sarah Swanson (*Director of Strategic Management MTDLI*)

Dr. Dern introduced Sarah Swanson. Her office is focusing on building strong partnerships and pipelines of support between K-12 leaders and regional industry leaders. One of the goals is to ensure education leaders understand the flexibility available through legislation: course equivalency, seat time, workers compensation (creating a pathway for students to work with the local workforce). Industry areas of focus: construction, machining, fabrication, welding, healthcare (including environmental staff and culinary staff). Other areas of focus: re-engaging career technology, JMG, and youth entrepreneurs. Sarah explained the Boeing opportunity available in Helena (space for 62 welders).

#### 5. Governor’s Office/OCHE Attainment Academy Portal for Workforce Development – Brock Tessman (*Deputy Commissioner OCHE*), Dylan Klappmeier (*Gov Ed Policy Advisor*)

Dylan stated that he works closely with the Montana University System and the MT Department of Labor. Brock reviewed the Apply Montana Portal and introduced Scott Lemmon, who is the main contact for the portal. The goal is to engage Montana students and school and district leaders. The portal allows students to access the central application (free application to all Montana University System campuses), career exploration, scholarship and FAFSA information, and will soon include dual enrollment information. Brock and Scott would like to visit superintendents at MASS region meetings. Scott will be attending the Montana Principals Conference to discuss the portal with principals.

Dr. Dern suggested that school counselors contact Scott (406-449-9172) to begin to establish points of contact. Laurie stated that Angela McLean will be visiting NW MASS in March.

#### 6. MASS [Regional](#) President Updates – *Region Presidents*

Kirk stated that the MASS Regional Information webpage has been updated with information concerning the new OPI liaisons as well as agendas and minutes.

Hi-Line: Tony reported that recruitment and retention continue to be one of the main discussions in the region. He is working on an international teaching document that he is willing to share with other administrators.

North West: Laurie reported that COVID continues to be part of the discussion. Sharyl Allen attended the last meeting. The region is waiting for ESSER data collection information from OPI. Sharyl had stated that an extension (possibly to mid-March may be coming), but has not confirmed that information. Laurie stated that an extension is particularly important for small districts due to minimal staffing.

North Central: Elliott reported that the Reach Higher Montana (Jason Butcher) presented at the last meeting. He encouraged other members to invite Reach Higher Montana to present at a meeting.

South East: Nick reported that the next region meeting will be held tomorrow at the Airport Inn in Miles City. Recruitment and retention of teachers and classified staff continue to be one of the main topics of discussion and concern.

South Central: Allison reported that the last meeting presenters were Jeff Liberty (BetterLesson), Carson Hornby (Healthy is Wellness), Shawn Graham (TRS), Felt-Martin (legal update). Colet

Bartow is the new OPI liaison. Alison promoted the SAM Needs Assessment and the MT Principals Conference with region members at the meeting.

Central: Thom reported that the next region meeting is scheduled for later today. Sharyl Allen presented on behalf of OPI and took questions from the group. Zach Hawkins is serving as the region's new OPI liaison. They will be discussing licensure at the meeting. Thom encouraged board members to contact MSU as the university is making an effort to place student teachers in rural areas. Linda Cleatus, No Kid Hungry, will be presenting at the meeting. The region is still meeting in-person and virtually.

Western: Scott reported that a representative from Blackfoot Communications presented at the last meeting, Bea Kaleva provided a legal update, and Dennis Parman provided an update. Scott encouraged members to contact Mary Anne Skinner (Montana School Services) who provides training on CRDC that was very beneficial. Scott reported that the ESSER training webinar recordings have not yet been posted on the ESSER website.

Dave reported that NW MASS members asked Sharyl Allen why there is a six-month delay in licensing where candidates must submit renewal by paper instead of using the online system. Her response was that information can not be transferred to the new system in a shorter period of time. Dave also asked Sharyl why the MSEIS system (single sign-on) is not included in the technology updates OPI has proposed. Her response was that it must be a separate system. Dave stated that he is concerned about the lack of educator candidates in the university system and also new educators' ability to enter the housing market in some areas of the state.

Casey reported that several games have needed to be cancelled this week due to Covid.

7. Discussion of [SAM Strategy – Promote the Value Your School Brings to the Community](#)

Kirk reviewed the webpage that is updated as necessary to provide access to information and tools to assist members in promoting the value their school brings to their community.

8. [Advocacy Issues](#) Update– *Rick Duncan and Kirk Miller*

Rick reported that SAM is beginning to look at priorities going into the next session. The legislative training day is this month and the MT-PEC vision group is meeting on March 10 to discuss priorities. A request for SAM resolutions will be going out to SAM members soon. Delegate Assembly is scheduled for June 9-10 in Helena.

9. AASA Executive Committee and Governing Board Updates – *Tobin Novasio, Dr. Laurie Barron, Dr. Mike Perry, Cal Ketchum*

- AASA National Conference on Education in Nashville – February 17-19, 2022

Tobin reported that there is a proposed ballot initiative to freeze property taxes. He thinks SAM needs to get ahead of this initiative. He is traveling to Washington, D.C. later today to meet with the AASA Governing Board to finalize the legislative platform. He asked if anybody has worked with litigation due to the pandemic. He asked for input that he could discuss at the meeting.

10. [MASS Financial Report](#) and [Membership](#) Update – *Kirk Miller*

Kirk reviewed the financial report and membership update. He reminded members that the investment line item has been moved from the budget and indicated in the total net worth instead. He asked that region presidents continue to review the region membership document that is located on the MASS Board Meetings webpage.

11. 2021-22 Professional Development Update – *Kirk Miller*

- [2022 Montana Principals Conference](#) on January 23-25. Bozeman Gran Tree and Virtual.

Kirk asked that board members promote the conference in their regions and encourage principals to attend. The SAM Board will also be meeting prior to the conference.

12. [SAM Update](#) – *Kirk Miller*

- [Executive Director Position](#), and Update on SAM Office Transition Plan
- Cognia Leadership Circles Partnership – Jeff Rose
- AASA Superintendent Certification Program with Mountain West Region
- K-12 Vision Group Meeting on March 3-10-22 Superintendent participants
- OPI request for districts ready to Transform – Innovation Zones – grant money

Kirk invited board members to review the SAM Update. The first review of applications for the Executive Director position will begin on January 21st. He reviewed the Cognia partnership. Kirk stated that he is researching the possibility of partnering with a Mountain West group that would offer the AASA Superintendent Certification Program to members. Kirk thanked those participating in the K-12 Vision Group. He encouraged members interested in Innovation Zone grant money to contact him and he will forward contact information to the OPI. Kirk stated that his goal is to provide SAM members with support. He encouraged members to contact him with requests and concerns.

13. Future Meeting Dates – MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting 2-8-22 @ 9:00 am

- [SAM Web Calendar](#)
- [2021-22 SAM Conference-Meeting Schedule](#)
- [2021-22 SAM and Affiliate Board Meeting Schedule](#)

14. What's on Your Mind ...

Kirk reported that an offer has been made to Dr. Doug Reisig to serve as MQEC Executive Director. Negotiations are not yet complete. Kirk thanked all who participated in the Chapter 57 task force. He asked board members to review the State Superintendent's recommendations that are alternate to the task force recommendations. SAM and MT-PEC will be at the Board of Public Education meetings this week to offer comments.

15. Adjournment

Allison Evertz made a motion to adjourn; Scott Kinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 10:20 AM.

DRAFT