



MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

9:00 – 10:00 am

In attendance: Casey Klasna, Dr. Greg Dern, Alex Ator, Darin Hannum, Elliott Crump, Laurie Barron, Tobin Novasio, Rick Duncan, Nick Schumacher, Dr. Mike Perry, Dan Schmidt, Matt Jensen, Brad Moore, Scott Kinney, Kirk Miller, Kim Scofield

Not in attendance: Godfrey Saunders

President Klasna called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Items for Discussion - MASS President Casey Klasna, Presiding

1. Consideration of [MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 12-8-20](#) [Action]

Darin Hannum made a motion to approve the minutes; [Nick Schumacher](#) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. [2021 Legislative Session](#) Update – *Kirk Miller & Rick Duncan*

Kirk reviewed the SAMLN21 discussion from 1/11/21 and the resources available to SAM members. The legislative schedule will continue to be posted on the SAM Legislative Update webpage. He reviewed the format of the schedule. He stated that he and Rick have provided written and live testimony (via Zoom) on many bills so far. Kirk stated that the efforts around trying to mitigate school funding related to COVID is on rocky ground. There doesn't seem to be much energy around a 3 - 5 year averaging. Rick added that he was pleased that the present law adjustments (i.e. inflation) were included in Gov. Gianforte's budget. He encouraged members to follow the legislative schedule that is changing continuously. He stated that testimony must be submitted by noon the day before a bill hearing. Tobin asked if there was momentum around HB 107 that would require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote to pass a levy. Rick stated that he just completed writing testimony to oppose this bill. Kirk stated that all MT-PEC partners will also oppose the bill but that it is hard to tell if the bill has legislative support. Kirk stated that it will be a challenge to maintain the authority for districts to manage their budget. Laurie asked if the inflationary increase will be an increase from last year's funding. Kirk affirmed that 1.5% in the first year and 2.17% increase in the second year of the biennium. Laurie also asked about HB 143. Kirk stated that the quality educator payment would include a 10% increase. The district would receive a quality educator payment and would be required to make up the difference to bring the base pay to the negotiated level. Rick stated that this bill is meant to incentivize districts to increase starting wages for new teachers. Kirk stated that there is no fiscal note for the bill for the first year of the biennium and 2.5 million during the second year.

Matt asked about LR 130 and MT going to a Right to Work state. He asked how these effect schools and what resources are available. SB 89 (Rieger) outlines the Janice Act (Right to Work). It enacts voluntary participation in unions and is creating challenges for MFPE because their existence is dependent on their members' participation in the union. Kirk will be researching SB 89 soon. Rick stated that the SAM DASC will make a decision on SAM's stance on SB 89. Kirk stated that he is unsure of MTSBA's stance on the bill. SAM would want to leave control with the school board. Tobin stated that some districts have been presented with MOUs. Scott stated that he will

share Bea Kaleva's guidance on managing the MFPE MOUs. Kirk stated that the bill would still allow districts to offer collective bargaining.

When asked about LR 130, Kirk stated that he hopes school districts will be exempt but he has been unable to find resources about this proposed bill at this time.

3. [COVID-19 Information for Schools](#) Update – *Kirk Miller & Board*

Kirk referenced the 12/22/20 Coronavirus Relief Act. SAM is working with OPI to make this money available in a smooth manner.

Kirk stated that he understands that the change in educator's vaccination status has caused discourse as has the mask mandate. Kirk stated that this change was not discussed during the vaccination taskforce planning meeting. Casey encouraged members to use the resources available on the SAM website.

4. MASS Spring Conference and MT-PEC Day of Advocacy Discussion

Casey stated that he doesn't believe a face to face conference will be possible in March but he opened the topic up for discussion. He asked MASS board members to contact him with questions and comments concerning the conference planning.

5. [MASS Financial Statement FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 2nd Quarter](#)– *Kirk Miller*

Kirk reported that revenue for MASS has come in well and the financial status of MASS is healthy.

6. Region President Updates – *Region Presidents*

Hi-Line: Darin reported that the region members have been discussing legislative issues and COVID protocols.

North central: Elliott reported that they are trying to hold in-person meetings monthly as well as virtual meetings.

Central: Brad stated that the region members are still meeting weekly. Angela McLean will be discussing recruitment and retention at today's meeting.

Northeast: Dan reported that Jeff Weldon presented at the last meeting. A great discussion took place with the region coop about the benefits of a coop with recruitment.

Southeast: Nick reported that the next meeting will be tomorrow. They will be discussing the MCCC teacher education program, how they can support each other through transitions, ESSER funds, and collective bargaining.

Southcentral: Alex reported that they are now back to meeting once a month instead of twice. They will be discussing ESSER funds and the mask mandate.

Northwest: Matt reported that they are meeting weekly. They are trying to be consistent with winter sports policies which is challenging due to the fact that they have all sizes of districts. He asked for information from members about LR 130. The region members are working with the new county health department director to put educators on a stand-by list for vaccinations.

Western: Scott reported that Colet will be providing an OPI update at the next meeting. He stated that OPI currently has 17 vacancies so it has been difficult to contact OPI. Bea Kaleva will be presenting on FFCRA and Juel mitigation and legal COVID update. Dennis Parman will present a legislative update. Scott reminded board members that it is important to encourage each other during this difficult time.

4-Rivers: No report

- Information for Regions – [MASS Regional Information](#) webpage

7. AASA Governing Board Updates – *Tobin Novasio, Laurie Barron, Mike Perry*

Tobin reported that AASA put out a response to the COVID bill that came out in December and national school lunch program data collection guidance. He stated that NCE is coming up in February and the governing board meeting will be Feb. 16th. He reported that he has been hearing good feedback about the new Dept of Education Secretary. Kirk stated that the NW Reception will be held during NCE. Invitations will be going out to all MASS members, not only to NCE attendees. Casey will introduce MT SOY, Dr. Laurie Barron.

8. [SAM Update](#) – *Kirk Miller*

Kirk invited board members to review the Update.

9. Future Meeting Dates - [Board Meetings 2020-21 & Conferences 2020-21](#)

Casey encouraged board members to encourage their district's principals to attend the Montana Virtual Principals Conference on January 25-26. _

10. What's on Your Mind ...

Tobin made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Scott Kinney seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Scofield
Director of Member Services and Professional Learning