



MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

9:00 – 10:00 am

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

Not in attendance: Rick Duncan, Scott Kinney, Hannah Nieskens, Casey Klasna

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

1. Consideration of [MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 9-19-21](#) [Action]

Thom Peck made a motion to approve the minutes; Nick Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. [2021 MASS/MCASE Virtual Fall Conference](#) – September 21-22 Review - *Dr. Greg Dern*

- [Evaluation](#)

Kirk reviewed the conference landing page and the resources that will be available to conference attendees for sixty days following the conference. Kirk reviewed the conference evaluation summary. The data is used for future conference planning. Tobin reinforced the evaluation response stating that the Class Size Caucus breakout sessions are more helpful than the Region breakout since region members meet regularly throughout the year.

3. Establishing MASS Leadership and Strategic Planning for 2021-22 - *Dr. Greg Dern*

Dr. Dern asked that this item be tabled until the November meeting.

4. MASS [Regional](#) Information

Kirk reported that region agendas and updates are posted on the MASS Regional Information webpage. The OPI Compass and OPI region updates are also posted on the webpage. Sharyl Allen and Sara Swanson are serving as liaisons to the MASS regions. The intent of having liaisons is to give the region president access to request information from OPI. It is not necessary to invite them to attend the meeting. Dave stated that the NW region members discussed inviting the State Superintendent to their region meeting to communicate their dismay in her leadership but he asked if this is a valuable use of the region members' time. Kirk stated that he doesn't see any harm in allowing members to express their concerns. Dr. Dern promoted the discussion and the value of communication.

- [2021-22 MASS Membership by Region](#) (Google Sheet)

Kirk reported that this resource will be updated to reflect the current membership at the end of the first quarter.

- [2021-22 MASS Regional Membership Monthly Meeting Log](#) to track meeting attendance for awarding MASS Recognition Pins

Kirk asked region presidents to continue to update meeting attendance throughout the year. The resource can be found on the MASS Board Meetings webpage on the SAM website. All SAM members in attendance should be added to the attendance list and OPI renewal units will be sent to them at the end of the year. He asked that non-members be encouraged to join SAM as attendance at region meetings is a member benefit.

- Region President Updates – *Region Presidents*

North Central: Elliott reported that OPI presented at the meeting. The region members communicated their frustration with not having the rapport with OPI that they have had in the past. A representative from Senator Daines’ office discussed OCR issues. Elliott thanked Kirk for presenting the four components for promoting the value of schools in communities. The region members discussed how to continue to fund school nurses as well as job descriptions for school nurses. They also have been working to compile a list of motivational speakers.

North West: Laurie reported that the region members continue to meet twice a month with excellent attendance. She stated that many questions posed to OPI are left unanswered which has hampered communication with OPI. Laurie stated that the region members have voiced their concern that the Executive Leadership Academy opportunity offered by OPI that sends money out of state instead of supporting state university programs, SAM LPLP, and AASA leadership certification. The region members are concerned that the OPI opportunity includes non-educators as thought leaders. The region members have also discussed the mental health of staff and students as well as suicide prevention.

South East: Nick reported that the region members continue to meet twice a month, once in person and once virtually. OPI is usually invited to the virtual meeting. Tomorrow’s meeting will include a mental health services presentation and a Leading through Crisis presentation facilitated by Stephen Schreibeis.

North East: Dan reported that the region members have been meeting once a month in person. Rob Pedersen was awarded the NCE scholarship offered by the region members. At the last meeting, Sara Swanson provided an OPI update, Elizabeth Kaleva provided a law/policy review, Jeff Kirksey from OPI facilitated an ESSER discussion and compiled a FAQ document, Greg Hardy led a discussion about a teacher recruitment project he has been working on with MSU, and Dr. Dern reported on the Executive Leadership Program from OPI.

South Central: Allison reported that the region members discussed the four components of promoting the value of public schools to communities and Kirk’s inspirational testimony to the Board of Education and the Interim Education Committee. They also discussed Senator Daines’ letter to the Dept. of Education that was a result of the MASS advocacy leadership team, the AASA app to keep in touch with federal advocacy, waivers to help alleviate supply chain issues with school nutrition programs, MASS strategic plan review, the constitutional rights of school boards, the MASBO website, the DPHHS and DEQ collaboration for lead testing in schools and the deadline extension and process. Region members also discussed the well being and mental health of superintendents and the importance of supporting each other, SAM LPLP, and licensure. Reach Higher, Boardworks, and OPI also presented at the last meeting.

Central: Thom reported that the meeting today will include a presentation on mental health first aid by the MSU Extension Office. Jeff Kirksey will also be reporting on using ESSER funding for capital projects and construction. COVID also continues to be discussed since school closures are still taking place in the region. Boardworks and Kaleva Law are on the November agenda.

Western: Scott reported that at the last meeting Sharyl Allen provided an update, Bea provided a legal update, Chet Riddle presented an Edgenuity, Kirk presented the SAM strategy for promoting the value of schools to the community, Tom Franta presented on current offerings, Dani Smith from UM presented on student teaching. The region members will meet again on Nov. 3rd.

Hi-Line: Tony reported that MSU-Northern reported on their counseling program, Kirk presented on the SAM strategy, Bart Hawkins and Brad Moore were recognized as regional superintendents of the year. Several region members may meet in Havre to attend MCEL virtually. Tony is the new Hi-Line President and Tim Bronk is Vice President.

5. SAM Strategy for Promoting The Value Your School Brings to the Community

· [INFO](#)

Kirk reviewed the SAM strategy for promoting the value of schools in the community. The strategy has been implemented through an open letter to Montanans, testimony given to the Interim Education Committee and the Montana Board of Education, a radio interview with Montana Public Radio, and the creation of four components of the strategy that can be used as talking points for administrators. Kirk asked region presidents to share this information with their region members stating that he is happy to present in-person at region meetings.

· [Communication One-Pager](#)

Dr. Dern reviewed the Communication document sharing that he uses this over a seven week period with his staff as a way to better understand and improve communication.

6. [COVID-19 Information for Schools](#)

Kirk reported that Jeff Kirksey is the contact at OPI for ESSER funding.

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

Kirk reported that SAM is tracking the activities of the current interim committees as well as fallout from HB 702 (prohibits discrimination based on vaccination status or having an immunity passport), HB 435 (civil liability laws), and SB 400 (restricting government entities to interfere with parental rights) that resulted in a parental rights rally at the Capitol at which Superintendent Arntzen spoke.

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

Tobin reported that a 2020-21 AASA report indicated that 63% of superintendents considered leaving their jobs. He also reported that NCE will be held in Nashville and safety protocols have been discussed. Vaccinations may be required. A survey will be sent to members by AASA. Tobin reported that the intention of the AASA part of the NSBA message was to condemn the threats

administrators and school board members are receiving, not to diminish parental input at board meetings.

9. [MASS Financial Report](#) – *Kirk Miller*

10. [Membership Report](#) – *Kirk Miller*

Kirk reported

11. [Current Awards Update](#) – *Kim Scofield*

Kim reported that the MASS Honor Boards of the Year, NCE Incentive Awards, G.V. Erickson, and Superintendent of the Year will be announced at the opening session of MCEL on October 21st.

12. 2021-22 Professional Development Update – *Kirk Miller*

- [SAM LPLP](#)
- [MCEL 2021](#)
- 2022 Montana Principals Conference on January 23-25. Bozeman Gran Tree and Virtual.

13. National Principals Month - October 2021

- [National Principals Month website](#) - [[Celebrate tab: \(Social Media Toolkit\)](#) ([Send an E-Card](#))] [[Advocate tab: \(Shadowing Visits resources\)](#)]

14. Future Meeting Dates – MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting 11-9-21 @ 9:00 am

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

15. What's on Your Mind ...

Dave stated that he has been asking OPI about the increased enrollment bill and has not gotten a response. He was told there would be a webinar coming out but has not seen it yet. Dr. Dern suggested that Dave reach out to Paul Taylor at OPI. Dave also stated that he has experienced criticism at school board meetings of social emotional learning in public schools.

16. Adjournment

Allison Evertz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Laurie Barron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM.

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

DRAFT