



# MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

9:00 – 10:00 am

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

Not in attendance: Nick Schumacher, Dr. Mike Perry

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM

No additions to the agenda noted.

## Items for Discussion - MASS President Casey Klasna, Presiding

1. Consideration of [MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 9-21-20](#) [Action]

Brad Moore made a motion to approve the minutes; Elliott Crump seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Continuing Sponsorship of Big Sky Fit Kids and Big Sky State Games

Kirk stated that MASS has donated \$1000 to Big Sky Fit Kids and Big Sky State Games for many years and is built in to the MASS budget. The board agreed that they would like to continue supporting the programs.

3. [2020 MASS/MCASE Virtual Fall Conference Evaluation](#) Review

Kirk reviewed the conference landing page as well as the conference evaluation. The evaluation provides feedback on a successful conference.

4. Preparation for [2021 Legislative Session](#) – Kirk Miller & Rick Duncan

This agenda item was discussed below during item 9. *Advocacy Issues*.

5. Region President Updates (Include COVID related Info for your Region) – *Region Presidents*

Western: Scott Kinney reported that the region members have been discussing messaging during COVID. Apptegy provided a presentation about school branding and marketing. Dennis Parman presented about the upcoming legislative session and Colet Bartow shared an OPI update. The region members shared what they are doing during this time of COVID. Scott stated that his district meets with the county health department every day which has been beneficial when communicating with community members. He would like to see MASS advocate to encourage health department officials to meet at least monthly to share information and strategies as the MASS members do.

Northwest: Matt Jensen stated that the superintendents in his region continue to work with the county health department and the local hospital. The health department recently stated that they will no longer be completing contact tracing so school staff will continue to be deputized to complete this

task. Matt stated that many area staff members have tested positive or are quarantined. Many of these staff members are continuing to teach remotely.

Northcentral: Elliott stated that Jessie Counts is the new OPI representative for the NC region. This month's meeting has been rescheduled for November 19th. He stated that Pondera County's entire health department recently resigned. Elliott stated that district staff members have been completing contact tracing. The region members will be discussing staff compensation, CDC guidelines, and holiday concerts at the next meeting.

Southeast: No report

Northeast: Dan Schmidt reported that the region members met face to face recently with an online option. They presented Wade Sundby with a memorial for his wife. They discussed participation in SAMLN21, lobbying assistance with Dr. Farr, a possible scholarship for the national conference, and e-rate.

Hi-Line: Darin reported that the region members continue to meet weekly. During one of the last meetings, the Deans from the college education departments across the state met with the region members. He stated that Western is looking for student teacher placement locations. Much of the discussion has been around COVID.

4-Rivers: Godfrey reported that Daniel Sybrant from Cognia presented about accreditation at the last meeting and Horace Mann will present at the next meeting. Much of the discussion is still around COVID. He stated that the Belgrade HS is closed until November 30th due to the fact that not enough staff/substitutes are available. Belgrade is still operating under the consecutive 15-minute rule. Godfrey is in contact with the local health department daily.

Southcentral: Alex Ator reported that two superintendents and possibly a third in the region have tested positive for COVID. He asked how long it has been taking people around the state to get their test results back. He has heard from people in his area that it can take up to two weeks. A few schools in the region are closing until Thanksgiving.

Central: Brad reported that the region members continue to meet weekly. Approximately 20% of the Stanford students and staff are currently in quarantine.

## 6. Information for Regions

- a. [MASS Regional Information](#) webpage
- b. [2020-21 MASS Regional Membership](#) (google sheet)\
- c. [2020-21 MASS Regional Membership Monthly Meeting Log](#)

## 7. [Membership Report](#)

Kirk reported that both the SAM and MASS membership numbers are on target. He encouraged members to use the membership/regional tools available.

## 8. SAM Update – *Kirk Miller*

Kirk asked anyone interested in participating in a meeting (OCHE Recruitment and Retention Committee) on December 2 to describe their district ideas and efforts on recruitment and retention to the committee, to email him.

9. [Advocacy Issues](#) – Rick Duncan and Kirk Miller

Kirk stated that the MT-PEC has met three times since the election to review the advocacy platforms for each of the six MT-PEC organizations. MT-PEC is holding a 2021 Legislative Preview session for the boards of directors of each organization on Monday, November 16th from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. The goal of the session is to learn about each organization's advocacy platform and create a solidified voice from the education community for the legislative session.

a. [SAM Delegate Assembly 2020](#)

Kirk stated that the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee will be meeting later this week to review the Election results, the potential impact on the 2021 Legislative Session and to possibly reorganize the SAM advocacy priorities. Retention of the school funding and the K-12 funding formula will most likely be SAM's main advocacy priority.

b. [Call to Join SAM Legislative Network 2021](#) (SAMLN21)

Kirk encouraged Board members to register to participate in SAMLN21 and also encourage region members to participate. It is important that at least one MASS member from each region serve on the SAMLN21. A training will be scheduled for all SAMLN21 participants prior to the legislative session.

c. [Interim Committee Actions on Issues Impacting SAM Advocacy Priorities](#)

Rick stated that the landscape of the next session will be different than it has been over the past eight years, but we will hopefully know which legislators will be serving on each committee after November 18th. With state revenues potentially being decreased significantly, the SAM advocacy platform will be challenging to achieve. Rick stated that there are currently 63 draft bills dealing specifically with education, 27 of those coming from interim committees.

Kirk stated the Governor-Elect Gianforte is putting together a COVID taskforce. Superintendents, Dan Schmidt and Hannah Nieskens are serving on the taskforce. Kirk stated that the weight of the MASS board and the standing of superintendents across the state will impact legislation during the session. Rick stated that the format of the legislative session is still unknown but he believes it will be a blended model.

d. [Federal Issues](#) Update

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

Tobin reported that the BinaxNOW tests are available, which helped his district identify a few people with COVID before they had come in contact with many students and staff. He encouraged members to review the information on the AASA COVID Dashboard ([https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e#/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?pageId=Page\\_5c13d2b8-2457-4580-94f6-27aa0d94be1a](https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e#/dashboard/5f78e5d4de521a001036f78e?pageId=Page_5c13d2b8-2457-4580-94f6-27aa0d94be1a)). Tobin reviewed the current COVID statistics in Montana from the AASA Dashboard compared to the rest of the country. Currently in MT the number

of positive cases in students per 100,000 is 39 and staff is 108 compared to across the nation where the number of positive cases in students is 6 per 100,000 and staff is 14. Tobin also shared the following links from AASA: <https://www.aasa.org/BidenAdmin/> and [https://www.aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Policy\\_and\\_Advocacy/AASABidenRecommendations2020.pdf](https://www.aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Policy_and_Advocacy/AASABidenRecommendations2020.pdf)

Laurie reported that with a new U.S. Secretary of Education we will hopefully receive a waiver on standardized testing.

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

Kirk stated that the SAM Board meeting has been rescheduled for January 20th instead of the 24th.

12. What's on Your Mind ...

13. Adjournment

Dan Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Darin Hannum seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 AM.

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