



MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

9:00 – 10:00 am

In Attendance: Dr. Greg Dern, Dave Wick, Rick Duncan, Scott Kinney, Hannah Nieskens, 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: Casey Klasna

President Dern called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

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

1. Consideration of [MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 10-12-21](#) [Action]
Elliott Crump made a motion to approve the minutes; Thom Peck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. MASS Leadership and Strategic Planning for 2021-22 - Creating a Working Group - *Dr. Greg Dern*
Dr. Dern asked for volunteers to serve on a working group. The group will consist of Dr. Dern, Dave Wick, Rick Duncan, Tobin Novasio, Laurie Barron, Hannah Nieskens, and Allison Evertz will meet on December 7, 2021, at 1:00 PM to review the existing MASS Strategic Plan and begin to make revisions. Kirk will also participate to provide necessary resources. An additional meeting will be scheduled after December 7th, as needed.

Dr. Dern stated that his goal is to have the revised strategic plan document completed by May 2022.
3. Discussion of [SAM Strategy – Promote the Value Your School Brings to the Community](#)
Kirk reviewed the SAM strategy resources that can be accessed from the homepage of the SAM website. Kirk described the events that took place during the past week. The SAM strategy is an attempt to intervene in the negative dialogue focused on community schools and create a dialogue that would gain the attention of community members and intended to provide school leaders with the impetus to move forward with work to promote the value of public schools in their community. Kirk also described the 90% turnover in staff at the OPI over the past year and the harm that causes in OPI's ability to provide resources to Montana schools. He also stated that the November SAM Bulletin Executive Director article provides strategies for a tiered approach to promoting the value of public schools in communities. He encouraged board members to ensure that their district's story is first and foremost in front of their staff. The more that school staff members know how important their work is to their community, the better they will be able to communicate the district's story to community members. Kirk asked board members to share these tools with their region members. He will also be sharing this information with other SAM affiliate board members.

Kirk pointed out the questions posted on the MASS Regional Information webpage asked by the Hi-Line MASS region of the OPI that address the staff turnover at OPI.

Kirk stated that the leadership academies offered through the OPI are funded through state level ESSER/ARP funds allocated to leadership development. Because these funds are public dollars, these academies should be offered to educators that are part of the public school environment and not open to educators in the private sector.

Board members voiced their concerns around the following:

- the hiring process for vacancies at the OPI,
- agenda items and speakers at the upcoming law conference offered by the OPI,
- the proposed rule that would allow parents to opt out of school district policies, and
- the spending of taxpayer dollars to continue to pay the lease on empty OPI buildings.

Dr. Dern emphasized the importance of continuing to create positive relationships with communities.

Kirk stated that SAM will continue to follow the SAM resolution and position statement to stand in the way of privatization with public funds. Every privatized dollar that goes to another entity is one less dollar available to public education in Montana. SAM's best opportunity is to continue to get the attention of community members by helping them realize the value of their public schools. Tobin stated that SAM needs to continue to do the great things that they are doing in public schools across the state. Allison stated that the latest findings as published in GREAT 2021 show that many Montanans give their local public schools an A or B.

4. [MASS Regional](#) Information

- Region President Updates – *Region Presidents*

Region reports will be provided at the December meeting.

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

Kirk reported that Chapter 57 and Chapter 58 are currently being reviewed. He is working to ensure that the recommendation from the state superintendent to the Board of Public Education aligns with the recommendation from the task force.

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

Tobin encouraged members to attend NCE in Nashville in February. Proof of vaccination or testing will be required and masking will be encouraged.

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

Kirk reported that the SAM Investment/Finance Committee voted to remove the investment line items from the budget due to the fact that the interest is reinvested. These funds are included in the organization's net worth as indicated in the report.

8. 2021-22 Professional Development Update – *Kirk Miller*

- [SAM LPLP](#)

Kirk reported that SAM LPLP is partnering with Cognia to incorporate Learning Circles that will be targeted at superintendents to provide an opportunity to connect with superintendents across the country.

- [MCEL 2021](#)

Dave reported that recorded sessions are available to registrants.

- 2022 Montana Principals Conference on January 23-25. Bozeman Gran Tree and Virtual. Kirk requested board members to encourage their principals to attend the conference either in person or virtually. The conference will include keynote speakers Ruby Payne, Joe Sanfillipo, and Rick Wormeli.

9. Future Meeting Dates – MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting 12-14-21 @ 9:00 am

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

10. What's on Your Mind ...

Scott reviewed a CSCT proposal that he has developed. Sharyl Allen stated that she would schedule time in 2022 to discuss this proposal with Scott. He stated that he may be soliciting information from those interested in the proposal.

Dan asked if anyone has heard anything about CRDC report training. Montana School Services is providing targeted training for Infinite Campus schools. Scott will send information to board members.

11. Adjournment

Dan Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Scott Kinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM

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