



MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
9:00 – 10:00 am

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

Not in attendance: Dr. Greg Dern

President Klasna called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Items for Discussion - MASS President Casey Klasna, Presiding

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

Nick Schumacher made a motion to approve the minutes; Scott Kinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. MT-PEC Virtual Day of Advocacy – March 22 – Update – *Casey & Kirk*

Kirk reviewed the agenda for the MT-PEC Virtual Day of Advocacy stating that a group of legislators is currently being chosen to participate in the panel discussion. Governor Gianforte will hopefully be in attendance for an address to share his plan for education from 11:00 - 11:25.

3. MASS Spring Virtual Conference- March 23 – Update – *Casey*

Casey reviewed the agenda for the conference that will kick off at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, March 23rd. Kirk suggested that the MASS Board Meeting be held virtually on Monday, March 22nd from 1:00-2:00 PM. The board agreed.

Kirk recommended that the fee for the MASS Spring Conference be set at \$50 or possibly free. In the past the registration fee has been \$75.

Rick Duncan made a motion to not charge a fee for the conference; Brad Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kirk stated that the registration form will go out to MASS members soon. Once registered, attendees will receive connection information and a link to the conference landing page.

- Discussion of topics for school size breakout sessions

Suggested topics include:

- Mental health support - How can MASS members support each other?
- ESSER II funds - plans for spending these funds outside of technology, cleaning, supplies, etc.
- Plans for next year - the reality of what the year will look like.
- Plans to continue with remote learning beyond the pandemic
- Negotiating salary schedules especially with the possibility of HB 143 passing

- Teacher recruitment, housing needs, the possibility of a state-wide initiative for teacher/workforce housing

Casey stated that the MASS Business Meeting will follow the breakout sessions and will include retiree recognition, President-Elect Candidate Forum, Year of Service recognition. He encouraged region directors to reach out to retirees and have them contact the SAM office so they can be recognized at the conference.

4. AASA Virtual National Conference on Education ([NCE](#)) – February 18-19 – Update – *Casey & Kirk*

- Northwest Virtual Reception – February 18, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Casey stated that he will introduce MASS Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Laurie Barron during the reception. He invited all members to attend to celebrate Laurie. The reception is open to all MASS members and each MASS member received an invitation.

5. [2021 Legislative Session](#) Update – *Kirk & Rick*

Kirk referenced the resources available to members on the SAM website. He reviewed the SAM advocacy priorities and the process for organizing the SAM followed bills. He invited Board members to focus their attention on the SAM Legislative Updates and resources on the website as they are streamlined to include information pertinent to SAM members and through the lens of SAM’s resolutions and positions developed through the Delegate Assembly process. Kirk reviewed the testimony SAM provided yesterday in both the House and Senate Education Committee meetings. Because so many bills are requiring testimony, the MT-PEC partners have been dividing the testimonies and providing one testimony on behalf of the partners. Joint testimony is also provided due to the fact that the legislative committees have requested that they receive testimony that represents the collective efforts of the six MT-PEC associations.

Kirk reviewed the bills that will be heard later this week including the following:

- HB 2 includes the allocation of the \$170 million ESSER II funds coming to the state. He described the difference between the MT-PEC recommendations compared to OPI’s recommendations. The OPI is recommending that \$4.4 million go directly to special education cooperatives. MT-PEC is recommending that the funds be used to apply inflation to the special education allowable costs in the funding formula for this biennium. This would allow HB 46 to pass and would put these costs into the funding formula into the future. Another difference in the recommendations is using funds to create a database within OPI that would require districts to enter information once instead of the current antiquated system. A meeting is scheduled for later this morning between the state superintendent and the MT-PEC partners for later this morning.
- HB 279 would raise the tuition tax credit from \$150 to \$200,000 and strips accountability language for a non-public school. SAM is in opposition to this bill because it would take money away from public schools.
- HB 143 would provide incentives for raising starting teacher pay and SB 188 that would revise teacher retirement and allow superintendents to work for up to three years after retirement.
- SB 74 would revise county school transportation laws.

Rick added that things are moving quickly with 44 submitted testimonies to this point. He stated that the passing of HB 15 is significant so districts can begin to plan budgets. He mentioned that several bills are direct attacks on the power of the Board of Public Education (BPE).

Matt asked for an update on the Right to Work bills. Kirk stated that many of these bills have not moved forward due to teamsters from around the state pushing back on these bills.

Scott stated that he recently met with Nathan Miller from OPI about Chapter 55. He is seeking input from superintendents. Scott invited board members to provide input. Laurie stated that she has also talked to Nathan Miller about licensure several times. Kirk stated that HB 246 is likely to pass which will increase flexibility and require Chapter 57 that includes licensure rules to be reviewed. The BPE process will need to be followed during this review so hopefully, many education stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide input. Kirk stated that the work SAM has done over the past few years around recruitment and retention with MUS appeared yesterday in HB 246 that would allow for out of state superintendents to complete two instead of three courses to earn their Montana endorsement and would also provide eligibility to school counselors for administrative licensure. Kirk stated that SAM advocacy is active on many levels throughout the year, not only during the legislative session.

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

Kirk stated that the COVID-19 Information for Schools is kept up to date on the SAM website.

7. Public Schools Week is February 22-26 – planning ideas discussion (social media toolkit possible idea to share sample messages/graphics: <https://learningfirst.org/social-media-toolkit>)

Kirk encouraged board members to review the resources, share the resources with region members, and celebrate Montana's public schools. This celebration and telling the story of the great things happening in our public schools is especially important during this legislative session.

8. Region President Updates – *Region Presidents*

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

NW: Matt reported that region members are trying to stay on top of COVID, the legislative session, and school sports.

SC: Alex reported that the region members have been discussing COVID along with ESSER II funds, and Educators Rising.

C: Brad reported that the region members continue to meet weekly. Every school in the region is completely in-person instruction. The region is experiencing a large turnover in administrators this year.

NC: Elliot reported that the region members have been discussing ESSER II funds, the format for proms, and state music competitions.

4R: Godfrey reported that they discussed mental health at the last meeting.

SE: Nick reported that the region has had four OPI representatives in the past six weeks. They have been discussing COVID, strengthening relationships with local colleges, negotiations, superintendent turnover, and supporting each other's mental health.

HL: Darin reported that the region members continue to meet weekly. They plan to have McKinstry come in to discuss design builds but also what they can do for schools concerning air quality.

W: Scott reported that a UM representative discussed student teaching at the last meeting, Dan Lee introduced Safer Montana with regard to online bullying reporting for schools, MUST presented information about upcoming enrollment, Rob Watson presented Educators Rising recruitment and retention information. Scott relayed his concern with the disconnect between MHSA and superintendents. He stated that MHSA made the decision to hold a 23 team divisional wrestling tournament followed by a 45 team state tournament. This required students and coaches to quarantine before and after the tournament. This decision was made without notifying the superintendents.

NE: Dan reported that the focus has been on recruitment and retention of all staff and administrators. He stated that he, like Scott, has also attempted to ask MHSA for better communication.

Casey asked board members to continue to share the information on the MASS Regional Information webpage with their members.

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

- AASA's Advocacy Team Presents: What's Up in Washington? Sign up for this [webinar](#) on Feb. 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. ET (free for AASA members)

Tobin reported that he sent the information about the upcoming webinar posted on the agenda. The education bill and federal funding will be discussed. Tobin also reported that the national conference is scheduled for next week during which the governing board meetings will be held.

10. [SAM Update](#) – *Kirk Miller*

Kirk invited board members to review the document.

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

12. What's on Your Mind ...

Darin Hannum made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dan Schmidt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09

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