



# MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting

Thursday, August 19, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 pm

In Attendance: Dr. Greg Dern, Dave Wick, Casey Klasna, Scott Kinney, Dr. Laurie Barron, Elliott Crump, Dan Schmidt, Bart Hawkins, Hannah Nieskens, Allison Evertz, Thom Peck, Cal Ketchum, Tobin Novasio, Rick Duncan, Kirk Miller, Kim Scofield, Marcus Meyer

Not in Attendance: Nick Schumacher, Dr. Mike Perry

Dr. Dern called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM and entertained introductions.

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

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1. Consideration of [MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 5-11-21](#) [Action]

Elliott Crump made a motion to approve the minutes; Cal Ketchum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. [2021-22 MASS Board of Directors](#)

Dr. Dern reviewed the Board of Directors roster. Kirk asked that board members email any changes to Kim at [samks@sammt.org](mailto:samks@sammt.org).

3. MASS/MCASE Fall Conference 2021 – September 21-22 Update - *Dr. Greg Dern*

Dr. Dern stated that the theme of the conference is Inclusive Leadership: An Invitation to Thrive Together. He reviewed the conference agenda and asked board members to promote the conference with their region members. The MASS Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 19th at 6:00 PM. A social is scheduled for 5:00 PM prior to the meeting.

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

Dr. Dern reviewed the MASS Strategic Plan that is divided into three areas: Education Leadership, Professional Learning, and Advocacy. He stated that his theme this year is “Value” and is guiding him to achieve his leadership goals for the year. The MASS Strategic Plan will be reviewed this year and an environmental scan will be conducted. He would like to use a section of the board meetings to report on the three areas of the strategic plan to help prepare the board for the upcoming strategic planning sessions.

5. MASS Superintendent of the Year Update

Kim reviewed the current process for the MASS Superintendent of the Year, stating that the selection committee is currently scoring the applications. Each MASS Regional Superintendent of the Year will be recognized at the MASS Fall Conference and the Montana Superintendent of the Year will be announced at MCEL on October 21, 2021.

## 6. MASS School Board of the Year Award Update

Kim reported that the nomination window closes on October 1st and there are currently no nominations submitted.

## 7. AASA NCE Conference 2022 Incentive Award Update

Kim reviewed the status of the application process. The applications close on October 1st and one application has been received to date.

## 8. Effective Use of [Regional](#) Communication Tools for 2021-22

Kirk reviewed the MASS Regional Information webpage. He asked region presidents to send meeting agendas and minutes to Kim at [samks@sammt.org](mailto:samks@sammt.org).

- OPI decisions on Liaisons and Support of MASS Regions

Kirk stated that the structure for OPI liaisons has changed and the goal of the OPI is to serve the MASS regions with the information that the MASS regions want at their meetings. The OPI liaisons will be Sharyl Allen (Deputy Superintendent), Anastasia Burton (Communications Director), and Sarah Swanson (Chief of Staff).

- Discussion Region President plans for Regional meetings
- [2021-22 MASS Membership by Region](#) (Google Sheet)

Kirk reviewed the membership by region stating that paid memberships are in black font. He asked region presidents to reach out to members who have not yet paid.

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

Kirk reviewed the document and requested that region presidents keep track of members in attendance at their meetings. The SAM office uses the meeting log to award OPI Renewal Units at the end of the year with two units per meeting attended.

Kirk stated that holding meetings in person, virtually, or blended is a decision to be made by the region president. In-person or virtual attendance counts as attendance at the meeting.

- Region President Updates – *Region Presidents*

Northwest: Laurie reported that the region members continue to meet weekly, but will hopefully begin meeting twice a month in September. They will have a virtual meeting once a month and an in-person meeting once a month. The region members have been discussing HB 702 (Prohibit discrimination based on vaccine status or possessing immunity passport). The region members disagree with MTSBA's stance. They have decided to step back from contact tracing so they are not involved in what could be described as a discriminatory practice. The region members will honor the health department's recommendations. She reported that most districts would be requiring masking on buses because of the federal mandate. The region continues to have excellent attendance at meetings and is fortunate to have the county health officer attend each meeting. They will invite Sharyl Allen from OPI to attend when they begin discussing OPI issues later in the year.

Western: Scott reported that the last meeting was held in Polson in July and the focus was superintendent contracts led by Bea Kaleva. Many new members are part of Western MASS this year, many without superintendent experience. Scott stated that his district would have masking and social distancing protocols in place when school starts. The county health offices continue to be the region's strongest proponents.

4-Rivers: Hannah reported that 17 of the 37 region districts that are active in MASS have new superintendents. The region members have been discussing COVID issues and navigating HB 702, contact tracing, and the implications of masking on the bus. Hannah stated that several AA districts in the region, including Helena and Butte, are beginning the year with masking protocols in place while several smaller districts are not planning to have these protocols in place when school starts.

Northcentral: Elliott reported that the region members will begin meeting on September 2nd.

Central: Thom reported that the region members did not meet during the summer. The members have many of the same concerns as other regions. Thom stated that Fergus County is part of a six-county region health district and the legislature attempted to take some power away from the health districts. There is no governing body over the health district which in turn leaves local school districts on their own. Lewistown school district will not continue to contact trace. All districts in the central region will begin the school year in person with masking optional or strongly encouraged. Thom stated that the Lewistown school district developed a community COVID team that includes community healthcare providers, daycares, and school district officials. The goal of the team is to ensure that the same consistent message about mitigation practices is being sent to the community from all entities.

Southcentral: Allison reported that the last meeting was held in May. They finished their year with a no-host social on June 3rd and will begin meeting again on September 29th. They will be discussing the internal metrics of optional masking.

Hi-Line: Bart reported that the region members have kept in contact with each other over the summer and will begin meeting formally in September.

Southeast: No report

Northeast: Dan reported that the first meeting is scheduled for September 1st at 10:00 AM. Kirk will be attending that meeting.

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

Kirk reported that this webpage is kept as contemporary as possible and tailored to administrators. Earlier today [MT-PEC 2021-22 COVID FAQ](#) was posted.

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

The financial report will be discussed at a future meeting.

#### 11. [Membership Report](#)

Kirk reported that approximately 70% of the membership is currently active. He asked region presidents to reach out to those administrators who have not updated their membership.

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

- [SAM LPLP](#)

Kirk reported that 42 members are currently registered for the program and have begun meeting with the program's nine providers.

- [SAM AI 21](#)

Kirk reported that more than 200 administrators participated either in-person or virtually.

- [MCEL 2021](#)

MCEL is scheduled for October 20 -22 in Helena at the Great Northern for up to 300 attendees and virtually.

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

Kirk reported that he sent a document to all SAM members earlier today prepared by MT-PEC ([MT-PEC 2021-22 COVID FAQ](#)) as a resource to members.

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

## 15. Future Meeting Dates

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

Kirk reported that the September 14th MASS meeting will be canceled. The next MASS Board meeting is scheduled for September 19th prior to the MASS conference in Helena.

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

## 16. What's on Your Mind ...

Dr. Dern thanked the SAM Office and board members for their participation this year. He will be reaching out to board members to see what each of their themes is for the year. He will also be sending information to prepare for strategic planning and becoming a community of practice.

## 17. Adjournment

Elliott Crump made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Allison Evertz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM

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