



MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

9:00 – 10:00 am

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

Not in attendance: Greg Dern

President Klasna called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Items for Discussion - MASS President Casey Klasna, Presiding

1. Consideration of [MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 8-12-20](#) [Action]

Darrin Hannum made a motion to approve the minutes; Alex Ator seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of [Request for MASS Board to serve as a focus group for the Montana Council of Deans of Education \(MCDE\) survey](#) of educator preparation program reviews [Action]

Kirk described the request for the MASS Board to serve as a focus group to review the teacher education programs by request of the Montana Council of Deans. The responsibility would be to provide feedback on the accreditation process and employer feedback on surveys of recently hired graduates of Montana's teacher education programs. The time commitment would be an approximately one-hour virtual meeting with the Council of Deans followed by another meeting possibly six months later. Alex stated that he feels it is positive to get a seat at the table to discuss teacher education programs.

Darin Hannum made a motion to approve the minutes; Scott Kinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. [2020 MASS/MCASE Virtual Fall Conference](#) – Casey Klasna

Casey reviewed the conference agenda.

- a. Board input on discussion topics for Class Size Caucus Meetings

Casey asked Board members for topic suggestions to present during the Class Size Caucus Meetings.

The following topics were suggested:

- aggregate hours of instruction and interpretations for accreditation and auditing (for continued ANB funding)
- the use of interlocal agreements to spend the Governor's COVID Relief Funds beyond the December deadline
- how to handle positive COVID tests (Outbreak Response Protocols) in all areas: staff, students, spouses, etc.
- how districts are handling substitute teachers, both on and off site.
- recruitment and retention of staff during the pandemic
- ideas for providing internet service to homes that do not have access

- how schools are handling telework requests and thoughts about allowing out of district remote learners in the future and the impacts of this on school districts moving forward

Casey stated that Jeremy McDonald requested specific questions for the Native American School Leaders Caucus such as working with the tribal government.

Kirk stated that each caucus leader will have a shared google doc with the questions. The SAM office will prepare this information and share it with the caucus leaders prior to the Conference so they are equipped to facilitate the Caucus virtual meetings.

4. Region President Updates – *Region Presidents*

Western: Scott Kinney reported that representatives from OPI, Cognia, University of Montana, and Bea Kaleva presented at the region's last meeting. Kirk also presented and provided information about the many resources on the SAM website.

Northwest: Matt Jensen reported that they have been working with county health departments and Kalispell Medical to create metrics for managing school closures if necessary. The NW region has approved that teams from the same county can participate in games with two spectators per player in attendance.

Northcentral: Elliott reported that the region will hold its first meeting later this week.

Southeast: Nick reported that the region has had devastating fires in the past two weeks. The region will hold their first meeting this week. They will be meeting in person with a remote option. Each district has very different guidelines concerning the pandemic.

Northeast: Dan reported that the region held its first meeting last week with very good attendance. The region members would like to begin meeting in person soon.

Hi-Line: Darin reported that the region members meet each week. They have been discussing reopening plans. Each district has different plans for reopening and for athletics.

4-Rivers: Godfrey reported that the region will have its first meeting tomorrow and will discuss reopening plans. He stated that the Gallatin County health department has worked well with the school district. Godfrey stated that several districts are having a difficult time hiring classified staff.

Southcentral: Alex reported that the region members are meeting twice a month. OPI, Larry Martin, and Nancy Hall all presented at the last meeting.

Central: Brad reported that the region members will hold its first official meeting later today though they have been meeting consistently.

5. Information for Regions

- a. [MASS Regional Information](#) webpage

Kirk reviewed the MASS Regional Information webpage and asked board members to send information they would like posted on the webpage to Kim at the SAM office.

- b. [2020-21 MASS Regional Membership](#) (google sheet)

Kirk reviewed the MASS Regional Membership document and asked board members to reach out to potential members in their regions.

- c. Completing the [2019-20 MASS Regional Membership Monthly Meeting Log](#) to track meeting attendance for awarding the MASS Recognition pins.
- d. [2020-21 MASS Regional Membership Monthly Meeting Log](#)
- e. Discussion of Vendors and Partners accessing regional meetings and SAM business partners

Kirk asked board members to check the SAM Business Partner list before giving vendors access to present at region meetings. He stated that SAM Business Partners are vetted by the SAM Board. He suggested that board members ask business representatives to contact the SAM office about becoming a SAM Business Partner.

6. [MASS Financial Report](#)

Kirk reviewed the financial report.

7. [Membership Report](#)

Kirk reviewed the Membership Report.

8. [SAM Update](#) – *Kirk Miller*

Kirk stated that he is happy to attend region meetings to discuss any of the items on the SAM Update. He reviewed the current award opportunities available to SAM members and asked board members to nominate deserving candidates.

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

a. [SAM Delegate Assembly 2020](#)

Rick reported that the SAM Delegate Assembly 2020 was held in July resulting in the SAM Advocacy Priorities remaining the same as they have been for the past few years. The SAM membership will vote during the SAM Business Meeting (October 14 - virtually held) on the advocacy package approved by the Delegate Assembly.

b. SAM Legislative Network 2021 (SAMLN21) – [Description](#) & [Forming the SAMLN21](#) & [2019 Info](#)

c. Legislative Interim Advocacy – [Committees](#), [Upcoming](#)

Rick reported that preschool funding and special education/coop funding will be topics of discussion during the next legislative session.

d. [Federal Issues](#) Update

Rick reported that Congress will be back in session today.

e. [2021 Legislative Session](#) ([2019 Legislative Session](#) SAM Example)

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

Tobin reported that the USDA extended the summer food rules which is a victory for education. AASA is working legislatively to ensure that COVID funding is diverted away from private schools as well as trying to get FEMA to reimburse districts for PPE costs. AASA is also working to get census information turned in as well as reaching out to districts to find out the costs of COVID. Tobin reminded board members that the AASA website has great

resources around equity and distant learning. Mike reported that the Department of Education recently announced that testing waivers will not be accepted this year. This announcement may require federal advocacy.

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

12. What's on Your Mind ...

Rick asked Kirk if the issues in Montana are similar to issues around the country. Kirk stated that the issues in Montana are the same as what he is hearing from other Executive Directors around the country. One issue he sees in Montana that may be different from other states is the potential impact on budgets in the future due to the lack of accountability for homeschooling in Montana.

Tobin asked if there is a list of past G.V. Erickson recipients on the website. The SAM office will upload a full list of winners.

13. Adjournment

Casey encouraged all board members to register for the conference and extend an invitation to all region members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 AM.

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