



# MASS Board Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Sunday, March 20, 2022

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Helena Delta Colonial Hotel or Zoom

In attendance: Dr. Greg Dern, Dave Wick, Casey Klasna, Elliott Crump, Nick Schumacher, Rick Duncan, Scott Kinney, Tony Warren, Dr. Mike Perry, Dan Schmidt, Allison Evertz, Thom Peck, Tobin Novasio, Rob Watson, Kirk Miller, Kim Scofield

Not in attendance: Hannah Nieskens, Laurie Barron, Cal Ketchum

President Dern called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

## Agenda – MASS President Dr. Greg Dern, Presiding

### 1. Mega Issue: [MASS Strategic Plan 2022-26](#)

Dr. Dern reviewed the newly adopted MASS Strategic Plan highlighting the three strategic plan goals. He thanked the committee members who helped review and revise the plan.

### 2. Consideration of [MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 2-8-22](#) [Action]

Casey Klasma made a motion to approve the minutes; Allison Evertz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Old Business

#### 1. 2022 MASS/META/MCASE Spring Conference

- [Conference Landing Page](#) and [Planning Document](#) and [Schedule at a Glance](#)
- [MASS Business Meeting Agenda 3-21-22](#)
- Awards Banquet
- [MASS Board member assignments for assistance](#) at the conference

Kirk and Kim reviewed the conference landing page and details about the conference. Board members volunteered for various duties throughout the conference.

#### 2. Consideration of [MASS 990 Tax Form 2020](#) [Action]

Dave Wick made a motion to approve the MASS 990 Tax Form 2020; Scott Kinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Kirk reviewed the report stating that MASS membership, as well as the entire SAM membership, is down a few members this year. However, the current SAM membership is

still the second highest in SAM history. Kirk thanked the MASS Board members for their work to engage members.

#### 4. [SAM Office Succession Plan](#) Update

Kirk reviewed the succession plan, introduced Dr. Rob Watson to the MASS Board, and congratulated him on the new position of SAM Executive Director.

#### 4. New Business

##### 1. Consideration of [2022-23 SAM Membership Dues Increase Request and Rationale](#) [Action]

Kirk reviewed the rationale for the requested increase in membership dues including the fact that membership dues have not increased since 2014. He reviewed the expanded services provided by SAM and the increase in business partnerships over the past nine years. Scott asked if \$20 is enough of an increase as he doesn't know of any organization that offers the support, professional development, and services that SAM does and emphasized the great value the dues provide to members. Kirk stated that the SAM Board suggested a moderate \$20 increase and also that a dues increase be visited more often. Kirk also explained that a moderate increase may be best prior to a legislative session because membership dues paid by school districts could be analyzed by legislators. He stated that 97% of SAM members have their dues paid by school districts.

Dave Wick made a motion to approve the increase in SAM membership dues; Elliott Crump seconded the motion.

Dave suggested that the board consider how to increase dues incrementally over the years instead of every eight or nine years.

Kirk reviewed the current SAM Business Partner 2021-22, reminding board members that Big Sky and Glacier sponsors have the opportunity to present at region meetings. The list of business partners and the sponsorship levels is posted on the [Business Partners page](#) on the SAM website.

##### 2. [MASS Financial Report with Proposed FY 2022-23 Budget](#)

Kirk reviewed the financial report reminding board members that MASS often does not present a balanced proposed budget but work to make the proposed budget balance throughout the year through policy. For example, in the past few years MASS has offered to pay the registration fee for superintendents new to their position to participate in SAM LPLP. As a result, new superintendents have the opportunity to participate in a robust New Superintendent Collegial Learning Network. The MASS Board will adopt the proposed budget at the next board meeting.

#### 5. President's Report – *Dr. Greg Dern*

Dr. Dern reviewed the conference schedule. He thanked Casey and Dave for their mentorship and everything the SAM Office has done to support him during the year.

## 6. President-Elect Report – *Dave Wick*

Dave reported that the NW MASS region developed a letter in support of MT-PEC's Chapter 57 recommendations to the Board of Public Education. He reported that four candidates are running for MASS President Elect.

## 7. Region President's Reports – *Region Presidents*

### 1. Retirees

Dave reported that MASS retirees will be honored in a presentation at the MASS Business Meeting.

### 2. Delegate Assembly Delegates

### 3. Election of Regional President (if up for election)

### 4. Region Superintendent of the Year

- NC: Elliott reported that Erica Allen facilitated the last meeting.
- SE: Nick reported that the region members hosted the Academic Olympics at Miles City Community College.
- W: Scott reported that Julie Murgel presented at the last meeting to discuss the progress on Chapter 55, 56, and 57 reviews, Dr. Tricia Siefert reported MSU's efforts in the teacher education department, U of M representatives were also present at the meeting.
- HL: Tony reported that region members met with MSU-Northern to discuss recruitment and retention. MSU-Northern will offer a training for incoming international educators that will cover classroom management, adjusting to life in Montana, etc. Harry Cheff and Shawn Bubb presented on MSGIA (Montana School Group Insurance Authority), Carol Ewan presented on the PAX Program. Shawn Graham, Angela McLean, Tricia Siefert will all present at the April meeting.
- NE: Dan reported that Joelle Hood will present an educational leadership piece on social emotional effects at the next meeting.
- SC: Allison reported that Tricia Siefert and Jenny Combs presented at the last meeting. An NCE update was given as well as time for collaboration among the region members.
- C: Thom reported that Shawn Graham from TRS presented at the last meeting. Kristofer Olsen, MSU presented on proficiency based learning. He outlined a new project that MSU is developing that was funded by the 2021 Legislature to provide in-service and online classes to help teachers realize the benefits of proficiency based learning and to implement it in their classrooms. A March Update and leading questions for the project was sent to all CMASS members. Several classes will begin this summer. Also at the last meeting: Matt Lewis provided a federal update, the city librarian provided an update, recruitment and retention and teacher housing were discussed.

The MASS Board members discussed hiring international teachers. Elliott stated that he has six teachers from the Philippines, several of them have been in his district for six years. Tony has prepared a document to guide districts through the process of hiring international teachers. Elliott stated that he has only hired teachers who have been vetted by hiring agencies. Dan suggested

providing a learning track at an upcoming conference to provide superintendents guidance on how to hire international teachers.

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

Rick reported that the SAM Delegate Assembly is scheduled for June 9 -10 following the DaRud Golf Tournament on June 8. He described CI-121 that will freeze residential property taxes. The impact would be \$184 million that would need to be realized from other areas of taxation in order to generate enough revenue to support the state general fund needs. It is important that Montanans understand the impact of the initiative. The SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee has voted for MQEC to join the coalition in opposing CI-121 which will provide SAM members access to resources for communicating the impact of the initiative on public education. Dr. Dern stated that he will share a Stanford review of California’s Proposition 13. Rick requested that board members submit proposed resolutions and positions for consideration of the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee by April 29. He asked that region presidents report the names of their region’s delegates and alternates to him and the SAM office. Rick stated that the K-12 Vision Project, which is currently being reviewed, is part of SAM position statements. Senator Tester has prepared a letter to Secretary Cardona asking the Department of Education to create a CRDC (Civil Rights Data Collection) reporting form specifically for rural schools. Rick reported that the omnibus bill did pass and the nutrition waiver is not part of it. IDEA has a \$2 billion decrease in funding for next year. There is currently a bipartisan bill to try to increase IDEA.

Kirk thanked Rick and the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee members for the great work they have done over the years.

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

Dr. Perry reported on the five planks of the AASA Advocacy group: Redefining Poverty and Equitable Formulas, Recruitment and Retention, Use of Medicaid in Schools, Fully Funding of IDEA, and Federal Reporting. He will have a full report at the business meeting tomorrow.

10. [Executive Director’s Report](#) – *Kirk Miller*

Kirk invited board members to review the report. He will provide a more detailed report during the business meeting. He thanked everyone for aspiring to leadership and assisting in making SAM and MASS stronger than they have ever been.

11. Future Meeting Dates

- Next MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting is Tuesday, April 8, 2022, 9:00am – 10:00am
- [SAM Web Calendar](#)
- [2021-22 SAM Conference-Meeting Schedule](#)
- [2021-22 SAM and Affiliate Board Meeting Schedule](#)

- [2022-23 SAM Conference - Meeting DRAFT Schedule](#)
- [2022-23 SAM and Affiliate Board Meeting DRAFT Schedule](#)

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

Krk thanked Dr. Dern for the dinner that he planned to honor his retirement.

Dan stated that the larger district leaders are missing out on great professional learning and collegiality by not serving on the MASS Board and wondered how to encourage AA/A superintendents to engage more fully and carry the message further when those administrators do not have experience in smaller schools. Rick stated that he would also like to see large district administrators participate in Delegate Assembly. Allison stated that this is part of the MASS Strategic Plan. Kirk stated that all MASS regions that have AA superintendents have experienced good representation from those superintendents at participation at the regional level. Region meetings provide the desired collegiality among districts of all sizes. This is a powerful concept of our MASS structure to support the local needs of superintendents through the regional meetings.

## 13. Adjournment

Allison Evertz made a motion to adjourn; Elliott Crump seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM

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