

MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am

[UberConference](#)



In attendance: Mike Perry, Casey Klasna, Cal Ketchum, Alex Ator, Matt Jensen, Dan Schmidt, Darin Hannum, Rick Duncan, Greg Dern, Nate Olson, Kirk Miller, Kim Scofield

Not in attendance: Godfrey Saunders, Matt Genger, Tom Stack

Agenda

MASS President Dr. Mike Perry, Presiding

President Perry called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

1. Mega Issue: [Coronavirus Impact on our Schools](#)
Kirk reviewed the information on the webpage stating that the resources are concise and streamlined according to what is important to Montana school administrators. He also reviewed the most current resources highlighted in the SAM COVID-19 Outline 4/10/20. Cal mentioned that the sharing that has come from the NW MASS group has been fantastic. He asked what it would look like if the Governor opens schools this year when the State Superintendent has recommended the closure for the rest of the year. Kirk stated that with each district submitting a learning plan to the Governor, districts will be allowed local control and will be provided with enough information to make decisions that are best for their district. Alex stated that if the Governor allows for schools to open, he feels his county health department will continue the closure. Kirk stated that he believes each district will have the ability to continue to follow their plan that was submitted to the Governor. Matt Jensen stated that he has heard the Governor is making decisions two weeks at a time, but a May 1st decision will determine closure for the rest of the year. Kirk stated that he believes the Governor is making decisions based on many issues, not just what is happening in schools so he doesn't feel there is a definite date. Matt asked Kirk to please let the Governor know that the NW MASS superintendents appreciate his leadership. He also asked for information about the \$41 million in grants that is scheduled to be released. Kirk stated that information is not available yet and the funds have not been released by the federal government. He continues to meet with OPI and will get the information out to superintendents when it is available. Kirk indicated that MT-PEC sent a recommendation to the Governor requesting the allocation and distribution of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (\$8.765 million) for our K-12 schools. MT-PEC also made a recommendation for the 10% state office set aside in the State (SEA) Emergency Education Relief Fund (\$4.1 million) to be allocated and distributed to schools in an equitable and flexible use way. These efforts are intended to provide our school districts with the relief funds assistance that can be used to flexibly meet the local needs and provide access to the funding when needed.

Matt stated that the majority of school staff can be working in an essential capacity but there are a few staff members that it is difficult to find essential tasks for and could be putting the district in a compromising position having them do non-essential tasks. Kirk stated that it is best to follow the guidance from attorneys. Kirk stated that his opinion is that the Governor's directive is to keep all school staff working. He suggested thinking about staff training, possibly online, that could be taking place during this time.

2. Additions to Agenda
Rick stated that he would like to add the Administrative Vacancy Report to the agenda. Kirk stated that the report is in his Executive Director Report.
3. Approval of the [MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 2-18-20](#)

Cal Ketchum made a motion to approve the minutes; Casey Klasna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

1. Consideration of MASS/AASA Membership Dues 2020-21 ([Proposed Dues](#)) – Action

Kirk reviewed the proposed dues which would increase dues (caused by inflationary increases from AASA) for active membership by \$10, \$5 for small schools, \$4 for college professors, and \$2 for aspiring and retired members.

Dan Schmidt made a motion to approve the dues increase as presented; Greg Dern seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rick stated that it has been several years since there has been an increase in MASS dues. Dan asked if AASA will be considering the same dues structure for the next several years. Kirk stated that the AASA Governing Board recommends the dues structure for the organization and they have just adopted an inflationary increase that may be added to the dues annually.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. [MASS Financial Report FY 18-19 and FY 2019-20 3rd Quarter as of 3-31-2020 with Proposed FY 2020-21 Budget](#) – Discussion

Kirk reviewed the financial report and proposed budget. He stated that canceling the spring conference results in approximately a \$13,000 loss. Kirk reviewed the proposed budget. Alex stated that he believes MASS's support of the Leaders Professional Learning Program continues to be beneficial.

3. Revisit [Proposed Revision to MASS Constitution](#) to place AASA Governing Board and Executive Committee Members on the MASS Board of Directors (non-voting) – Discussion
Kirk reviewed the proposed revision that provides an addition to include the AASA Governing Board members as non-voting members of the MASS board of directors. This was voted on by the MASS board but not by the MASS membership at a business meeting so it will be added to the Fall MASS Business Meeting agenda. He recommended inviting the Governing Board members to MASS meetings beginning in the fall. The board agreed.

5. New Business

1. Consideration of [MASS Budget 2020-21](#) – Action

Darin Hannum made a motion to accept the budget as presented; Casey Klasna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. AASA Governing Board Announcement – Discussion

Kirk reported that Dr. Mike Perry and Dr. Laurie Barron were elected by the MASS membership to serve on the AASA Governing Board. Their three-year terms will begin in July. Mike and Laurie are replacing Jule Walker and also filling the new seat on the Governing Board made available due to increased MASS membership. They will join Tobin Novasio, currently serving on the AASA Governing Board as a Montana representative.

3. Appointment of MASS Federal Relations Coordinator ([MASS Board Election Rotation](#)) – Discussion
Kirk stated that Rick Duncan was appointed to another three-year term by the MASS President. Mike stated that Rick is an asset to MASS serving in this position.

4. 2020-21 Professional Development – [SAM LPLP](#), [SAM AI](#), [MCEL](#) – Discussion

Kirk stated that SAM LPLP will continue to fill a critical need moving forward. He stated that SAM Administrators Institute is scheduled for July 27-29 with a theme of “Tell Your Story” along with discussions about how to prepare schools for reopening after the closure. The request for presentations went to the SAM membership last week. He encouraged MASS board members to submit a presentation. Kirk stated that the golf scramble, Evening of Excellence, and Delegate Assembly originally scheduled for June will be held during SAM AI. Kirk stated that MCEL is scheduled for October 14-16 in Missoula. He encouraged members to submit a call for presentations. He asked board members to think about sessions to help fill a track that would benefit building level administrators.

6. President’s Report – *Dr. Mike Perry*

a. [MASS Business Meeting Agenda](#) Discussion

Mike reviewed the agenda stating that the business scheduled for that meeting will take place at the fall meeting. He stated that he would like to see Dan Grabowska and Tom Stack report on their national conference attendance at the fall business meeting.

b. [Membership](#)

Kirk reviewed the report and congratulated board members for working to contact superintendents in their regions to become members resulting in a record number of members. He stated that the 2020-21 membership drive will launch on April 20th.

c. MASS President-Elect Election

Kirk stated that a ballot has been created, however a video speech could be recorded by the candidates and placed on the ballot. The board suggested that links to a two to three minute video speech stating why the candidate should be considered for MASS President-Elect should be added to the ballot. Kim will contact the candidates about providing videos. The ballots will be emailed to the membership when this is complete and will remain open for 14 days.

d. Region President Elections ([MASS Board Election Rotation](#)) (Report by May 19 MASS Board Web Meeting)

Mike asked that the SAM office send a reminder to the MASS board members to elect their region president and report at the May meeting.

e. Updates

7. President-Elect Report – *Casey Klasna*

a. MASS Retiree Recognition

Casey reported that videos have been created for many of the retirees, but more retirements have been announced. Rick suggested recognizing retirees during SAM AI. The presentation could be sent to the MASS membership this spring. Casey will consider these suggestions and report back to the Board.

b. MASS Years of Service Pins

Casey reported that the pins will be presented at the fall conference when the superintendent recognition pins are presented.

c. MASS Regional Superintendents of the Year (Report by May 19 MASS Board Web Meeting)

Casey asked that regional presidents send an email to the SAM office reporting who they have nominated as their regional Superintendent of the Year.

d. MASS Fall Conference 2020 – September 21-22 Helena Delta Hotels by Marriott

Casey reported that he has been working with Michelle Halberg, MCASE President, to plan the fall conference. He asked the MASS leadership to let him know if they have ideas for the conference.

8. Regional Director's Reports – *Regional Presidents*

Northeast: Dan Schmidt reported that the region superintendents have been meeting often. They have been working with local telecommunication companies, Nemont and Sheridan Electric. The companies purchased many Chromebooks and presented them to districts. They are also providing reduced rates for connectivity.

Southcentral: Alex Ator reported that the March meeting focused on navigating school closures. The April meeting will focus on problem-solving issues such as graduation, spring sports, spring concerts, etc. Alex thanked the board members for everything he has learned both personally and professionally over the past two years.

Northwest: Matt Jensen reported that they have been working on health insurance issues. He asked if other region presidents are interested in inviting members from other regions to join their meetings since they are now being held virtually. Mike suggested that region presidents discuss this with their members. The SAM office will suggest this idea to region presidents. Kirk stated that regional meeting information is available on the MASS Regional Information webpage. He asked that region presidents send their agendas and minutes to Kim.

Hi-Line: Darin Hannum reported that the region meets weekly to help each other navigate the school closures.

Central: Greg Dern reported that the region presidents met with county school superintendents and special ed coop directors before the closure. They will be meeting virtually in April.

9. Advocacy Issues – *Rick Duncan and Kirk Miller*

a. Legislative Interim Advocacy – Committees, Upcoming

Rick reported that the Legislative Interim Education Committee has been meeting and SAM has been actively involved in the work of the committee. He reported that one of the main topics has been around special education funding.

b. SAM Delegate Assembly 2020 – Call for Positions and Resolutions – Delegate Selection

• SAM 2019 Advocacy Priorities, Positions, Resolutions Approved 10-18-19

SAM Delegate Assembly has been rescheduled and will tentatively be held July 29 - 30 based on SAM Board action. The deadline to submit positions and resolutions has been extended to June 1st. He reminded region presidents to report their delegates for their regions to President Perry.

c. Federal Issues Update

Rick's report focused on the following:

- Federal CARES Act impact on Montana schools.
- SAM's request to MT legislators asking for IDEA flexibility/waivers. [SAM Letter to MT Congressional Delegation](#)
- REAP funding
- SAM's non-support of SB 2779
- Working with the FCC and CoSN on closing the homework gap

Cal stated that he hopes to have the CARES Act money distributed equitably. He suggested that if a district has received a transformational learning grant then they should not receive money from the second CARES Act. Rick agreed that distribution of the money should be more equitable.

- d. [Espinoza vs. MT Dept of Revenue](#) – [SCOTUS Blog](#), [Ballotpedia](#), [MQEC Update](#)
Rick reported that a ruling should be announced in June.

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

Kirk asked members to review the 3rd quarter strategic plan update. He reported that the 990s (Tax forms for 2018) have been submitted for MASS and SAM. He reviewed the 2019-20 SAM Administrative Vacancy Report that will serve as a basis for longitudinal data for SAM to track.

11. What's on Your Mind...

Casey asked what platforms superintendents are using for public board meetings. Cal and others stated that they are using Google Meet.

Greg Dern made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Cal Ketchum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

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