



MASS Board Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Sunday, September 19, 2021

6:00 – 8:00 pm

In Attendance: Dr. Greg Dern, Dave Wick, Dan Schmidt, Allison Evertz, Thom Peck, Cal Ketchum, Rick Duncan, Nick Schumacher, Scott Kinney, Dr. Mike Perry, Kirk Miller, Kim Scofield

Guest: Dr. Daniel Farr

Not in attendance: Casey Klasna, Elliott Crump, Dr. Laurie Barron, Bart Hawkins, Hannah Nieskens, Tobin Novasio

Dr. Dern called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Agenda

MASS President Dr. Greg Dern, Presiding

1. Mega Issue: MASS Strategic Vision – [President's Memo](#) [MASS Strategic Plan 2018-22](#)

Dr. Dern reviewed the President's Memo stating that the exercise is intended to assist the board to prepare for reviewing the MASS Strategic Plan 2018-22. Rick stated that he feels it is important to conduct a scan of the environment when revising the strategic plan and decide if changes in the environment cause changes to the MASS goals, core values, and strategic objectives, and consequently the strategic plan. He stated that the MASS Strategic Plan is an important, living document. He sees the importance of the strategic plan especially now with a new executive director in place after Kirk's retirement at the end of the fiscal year. Kirk stated that it is a board decision to review and update the strategic plan and the SAM office will assist. Special three-hour meetings should possibly be planned for the strategic planning process. Greg suggested that a committee begin the process and report back to the MASS Board. Those interested should email Greg of their interest in participating on the committee. Dan Schmidt suggested that the region presidents survey their regional members about suggested changes to the MASS strategic plan and report survey results back to the board. Allison agreed that feedback from the members would be valuable. She suggested that the board create the survey to determine the questions to ask that would ensure the desired output.

Kirk reviewed the environmental scan process. He stated that a survey could be created using a Google form. Dan stated that he would hope to gather and assess the institutional knowledge as superintendents that are leaving MT at over 10% per year. Allison would like to review the questions from the previous environmental scan to assess if they are still relevant. Mike suggested that the board review and adjust the questions if necessary before it goes out at the regional meetings and then to the membership at large. Dave agreed especially since the strategic plan is mostly used by the officers to drive the affiliate leadership and by the SAM office. He recommended that the document that goes to the membership consist of a one-page, streamlined document.

Rick stated that MASS needs to follow SAM's lead to ensure that there are similarities between the MASS and SAM strategic plans. Kirk stated that each of the six affiliate organizations has a strategic plan that fairly closely aligns with SAM's strategic plan. Dave stated that while the strategic plans need to be living documents, they should not be situational and the goals and core values of MASS should remain consistent over the years. He thinks the board's job is to update the strategic plan but not reinvent it. He suggested an examination of the strategic plan by the board before asking the membership for input.

Dr. Dern explained his thought process behind creating the memo and the six Skills and Capacities for Futurist Leaders in Table 1. He asked board members to consider how the six items integrate with the three goals of the MASS Strategic Plan. Is there a need to focus on leadership itself as well as the strategic plan goals? How does MASS get closer to superintendents in the field as well as how does MASS maximize membership?

Rick recommended that each of the region presidents present the idea that the MASS strategic plan is under revision and ask at the regional level for suggestions. This could be on the October region meetings agendas for region presidents to report back to the MASS board. The MASS board could take these suggestions into consideration and revisit the topic monthly in order to complete any revisions by June. Greg stated that he would like to see a process put in place. He asked the board to take the next month to formulate the process via a google document that will be shared between the board members to gather ideas for outlining the process.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

3. Consideration of [MASS Board Leadership Special Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 8-30-21](#) [Action]

Nick Schumacher made a motion to approve the minutes; Allison Evertz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

1. [2021 MASS/MCASE Virtual Fall Conference](#)

Dr. Dern reviewed the conference agenda that is now live and posted on the SAM website.

· [Fall 2021 MASS Regional Caucus Questions](#)

Dr. Dern reviewed the process for the caucuses. Following discussion, a link was added to the [MASS Fall 2021 Masking Survey](#) asking superintendents what schools are mandating versus allowing for optional masking.

2. [MASS Financial Report](#)

Kirk reviewed the financial report.

3. [Membership Report](#)

Kim reviewed the membership report stating that membership is currently lagging compared to last year, however, the report will be updated at the end of the first quarter. She asked region presidents to reach out to members who have not yet renewed their memberships.

4. October 2021 - National Principals Month

· [National Principals Month website](#) - [Celebrate tab: ([Social Media Toolkit](#)) ([Send an E-Card](#))] [[Advocate tab: \(Shadowing Visits resources\)](#)]

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

Dr. Dern thanked all those who helped plan the conference, the region presidents for their outreach to region members, and Cal for his message in the article he submitted to the September SAM Bulletin. He reported that his theme for the year is “value”. He asked for board members to share their themes. Nick shared that his theme is Growth, Grace, and Gratitude.

6. President-Elect Report – *Dave Wick*

Dave thanked Greg for his great work in leading the MASS organization this year. He reminded MASS board members of the importance of speaking out during their board of trustees meetings about the importance of

working together as a community to spread a positive message about their schools. He tries to remain cognizant that his teachers and staff need him to continue to be positive, kind, and resilient.

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

Central: Thom reported that Sarah Swanson from OPI gave a report at the recent region meeting. The members discussed promoting vaccinations for students 12+. Lewistown Public Schools is hosting a college fair and vaccinations will be offered, with parent consent, to those students who want one. Most of the region members attended in person.

South Central: Allison reported that the region members will meet on the last Wednesday of the month using a hybrid delivery model.

North East: Dan reported that the region members met in Glasgow and virtually. Kirk provided a SAM update. The discussion was focused on COVID. Sarah Swanson provided an OPI update.

South East: Nick reported that the region members will be meeting in Miles City on September 8th. A virtual option is also available. Kirk provided a SAM Update. CEC and CSPD representatives also presented. The region is still meeting once a month in person and a once a month check-in virtually. Nick reported that Stephen Schreibeis, Glendive superintendent, has invited MASS members to participate in a presentation by John Maxwell entitled *Leading through Crisis*.

Western: Scott reported that the region members met the first of September in Missoula with a virtual option. Bea Kaleva presented as well as Jule Walker from MTSBA, Shawn Bubb from MSGIA, and Sharyl Allen from OPI. The members discussed the current state of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Discussion also took place around masking and school reopening. The next meeting is scheduled for October 6th in Missoula. Scott stated that his administrative team has been focusing on value and the fact that public educators do so much more than just education for Montana students - laundry, meals, etc. He thinks this year's call is for administrative leadership to do a better job of messaging the positive aspect of public education to communities.

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

1. [2021 Legislative Session](#) Update

Rick reported on the following:

- HB 702 (Prohibits discrimination based on vaccination status or having an immunity passport) and the unintended consequences of the bill are currently at the forefront. One of the unintended consequences is that vaccinated individuals are not exempt from quarantining and health officials only make recommendations about quarantining.
- SB 400 (Restrict governmental entity from interfering with parental rights) is also at the forefront. No legal action has taken place yet, but Rick believes it will before the end of the year and he is unsure of how that will look.
- SB 157 (Allow nonpublic students to participate in public school extracurricular activities) - Rick stated that MHSA has done a good job of working with districts on this issue.
- HB 33 (Clarify school funding related to anticipated enrollment increases) Rick stated that it will be interesting to see how this affects schools when the actual count comes out in October.

2. [SAM Delegate Assembly 2021](#)

Rick reported that the work of SAM Delegate Assembly 2021 will be voted on by the SAM membership at the October 22nd membership meeting.

3. [Interim 2021-22 Legislative Committees](#) Update

Rick reported that the Education Interim Committee met in July and again recently. He encouraged members to listen to the recording of Kirk's testimony. Much of the conversation has been around CSCT and MDA. The committee will meet again in November.

Kirk reported that he attended the State Administration and Veteran Affairs Interim Committee when they discussed the HJ 8 study around pension systems. Kirk gave public comment requesting greater flexibility in TRS. He stated that SAM is also tracking the four different working American Rescue Plan Commissions.

4. [Federal Advocacy](#) Update

Rick reported that MASS advocacy leadership met with the Montana delegation in July. They discussed the masking issue on buses and Senator Daines has written a letter stating that school bus transportation is different than public transportation and requesting local control around the issue. Senator Tester gave a talk on the politics around infrastructure last week.

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

Dr. Perry encouraged members to stay connected with AASA and the updates sent by Sasha Pudelski and Noelle Ellerson Ng. The infrastructure bill is one of the main priorities. If approved, the funding would be applied for at the state level instead of the federal level. There is also a proposal to inject infrastructure and construction funds into impact aid for schools.

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

Kirk invited board members to review the report. He pointed out the strategy developed by the SAM Executive Board to gain community support for safely open schools, keeping schools open, and promoting the value of schools in communities. This strategy began implementation on 9-10-21 with an open letter about the value of supporting public schools that has been printed in several newspapers and posted on social media. All feedback has been positive comments. Kirk also testified at the Interim Education Committee and the Board of Public Education where he also described the value of public schools in Montana. [Open Letter to Montanans -- Consider the value of your public school in your community, Support Your Public School testimony to the Interim Education Committee 9/13/21, Support Your Public School testimony recording to the Montana Board of Education 9/16/21](#)

Dave stated that Kirk's letter was very well done and he thanked Kirk for his efforts. Kirk stated that the MT-PEC partners are currently working on the GREAT 2021 publication that will include the latest Zogby poll. It will be released at MCEL and will serve as a tool that administrators can use when positively communicating the value that public schools bring to their communities.

11. Future Meeting Dates - [Board Meetings 2021-22 & Conferences 2021-22](#) and [SAM Web Calendar](#)

Dr. Dern stated that the MASS Business meeting will be held on September 21st and the next MASS Board Leadership Web meeting is scheduled for October 12th at 9:00 AM.

12. What's on Your Mind ...

Dr. Dern thanked the SAM office team for everything they have done to facilitate the planning of the fall conference.

13. Adjournment

Scott Kinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Allison Evertz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM

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

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