



# MASS Board Web Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2020

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Join [SAM Zoom](#)

## Agenda

*MASS President Casey Klasna, Presiding*

In attendance - Mike Perry, Nich Schumacher, Casey Klasna, Matthew Jensen, Laurie Barron, Tobin Novasio, Godfrey Saunders, Alex Ator, Scott Kinney, Darrin Hannum, Greg Dern, Rick Duncan, Brad Moore

Not in attendance: Dan Schmidt

1. Mega Issue: [COVID-19 Contemporary Issues Impacting Schools](#)

Casey mentioned that his district has zero active cases and people are getting complacent even though the community is full of tourists. Tobin said the same is true for Yellowstone County. He is encouraging all staff to continue to be diligent. Scott stated that he would appreciate consistent messaging from the partners so that districts know what rules need to be met especially at school events. He would have liked one set of rules/guidelines. Scott said that he has heard of parents in other districts refusing to follow guidelines. Scott appreciated that SAM allowed districts to share their reopening plans which helped districts use the same language and provide strength in numbers. Matt stated that the number of cases in Flathead County is rising and the schools are being hit hard. Greg shared the publication, [Together Apart - The Psychology of COVID-19](#). Elliott asked about schools being responsible for contact tracing. He also asked about lawsuits around quarantining students. Matt stated that his district has notified parents letting them know that they would be contacted by the county health department. Tobin stated that Yellowstone County Health Department is so far behind that school officials are being deputized so they can help with contact tracing. Laurie stated that they have been assisting the health department with contacting students/parents to let them know they need to quarantine. Matt asked what districts are doing about substitute teachers. His district is considering going remotely and offering core classes because they do not have enough staff to supervise all of the students.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

3. Consideration of [MASS Board Leadership Web Meeting DRAFT Minutes 9-8-20](#) [Action]

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

4. Old Business

1. [2020 MASS/MCASE Virtual Fall Conference](#)

Kirk reviewed the schedule for the conference.

## 2. [MASS Financial Report](#)

Kirk reviewed the financial report. Approximately 130 MASS and MCASE members registered for the conference. This is less than in the past, however, the cost to hold the conference is also less.

## 3. [Membership Report](#)

Kirk reviewed the membership report.

## 5. President's Report – *Casey Klasna*

Casey thanked everyone for attending the conference. He encouraged board members to consider nominating deserving candidates for the current awards. The MASS Conference Incentive Award deadline has been extended to December 1st for the National Conference on Education which will be held virtually. He stated that recipients of the award will still have the ability to apply to win the award again in the future when the conference is held in person. Kirk stated that the status of Day of Advocacy is currently being discussed based on whether or not the legislative session is held virtually or in person.

## 6. President-Elect Report – *Greg Dern*

Greg reported that he recently reached out to the Governor's office and to OPI for messages in support of our work. The Governor's office expressed gratitude to all superintendents. The office is available to answer questions and welcomes the collaborative approach of all MASS members. Greg will forward the response from the OPI when it is received.

Greg recommended Michael Sandel's book *Justice* (<http://justiceharvard.org/>)

Greg reported that the schedule for OPI's Transformational Learning webinars has changed to eliminate the conflicts with this Conference.

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

Western: Scott reported that the region members have been meeting and connecting often. He shared the [document that includes a map of positive cases](#) in districts in Montana.

North West: Matt reported that NW MASS has been discussing how they are going to continue to keep classes going onsite.

North East: Dan Schmidt: no report

North Central: Elliott Crump reported that NC MASS is holding meetings twice a month. The region members have been discussing school reopening. They are meeting in person and offering a virtual option.

South East: Nick Schumacher reported that the members in his region are meeting every other week with some meeting in person and some virtual. A Title IX and employee evaluation training took place last week.

Hi-Line: Darin Hannum reported that the members in the Hi-Line region are meeting weekly virtually. Each district in the region is experiencing different levels of infection rates.

4-Rivers: Godfrey Saunders asked if other districts are having racial issues in their districts. He reported that 4-Rivers had their first meeting. Kirk, Rick, and OPI presented. They also had a beneficial open discussion.

South Central: Alex Ator reported that he is conducting staff training.

Central: Brad Moore reported that the Central MASS members continue to meet weekly.

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

a. [SAM Delegate Assembly 2020](#)

Rick reported that the SAM Delegate Assembly was held July 30th and approved the recommendations that will be voted on by the SAM Membership on October 14th.

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

Rick stated that a request for members to register to participate in the SAM Legislative Network 2021 will be going out to SAM members soon. He asked region presidents to reach out to members of their region and encourage them to join the network.

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

Rick referenced the recently prepared [2021 Interim Committee Actions on Issues Impacting SAM Advocacy Priorities Draft Report](#) for reference to SAM advocacy during the Interim.

Rick stated that two draft preschool bills (PD 0009 and PD 0018) failed during the interim but a lot of discussion took place by legislators to carry the bills into the session. He stated that a bill to eliminate the reduced-price of free and reduced school lunch and breakfast came out of the committee. A bill draft is coming that would add special education allowable costs to the funding formula and apply inflation as with other components of the funding formula. The bill draft falls short of SAM's requests for cooperative funding, but may help with the inflationary increases.

The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee addressed e-rate/broadband matching funds. The State Tribal Relations Interim Committee drafted PD 0007, a bill that establishes graduation requirements for youth who have experienced homelessness or been in foster care, the juvenile justice system, or have experienced a medical or mental health crisis.

d. [Federal Issues](#) Update

Rick reported that Congress reconvened and he hopes that COVID relief funds will go through the end of September. The equitable services aspect is being worked on. Liability protection for schools regarding COVID and IDEA mandates is also being discussed.

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

The session begins January 4th. Hot topics will include funding, preschool, public funds being allocated to private schools.

Tobin asked if there is a plan for connecting with legislators if the legislative session is held virtually. Rick stated that the last several interim committee meetings he has listened to have

gone smoothly. Kirk stated that a training mechanism will be created for the SAM Legislative Network depending on the platform the legislature chooses.

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

Tobin reported that COVID-19 relief extension and the Supreme Court opening are the current focus of AASA.

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

Kirk invited board members to review the report.

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

12. What's on Your Mind ...

Scott asked if there is a way to encourage county health departments to communicate collaboratively as administrators do. Kirk stated that SAM and MT-PEC have been attempting and will continue to deliver this message.

13. Adjournment

Greg Dern made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Alex Ator seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.

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