

MCASE BOARD AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2018

Agenda for February 28, 2018, paired with our Strategic Plan



MCASE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020

Core Purpose

Building leadership capacity of educational professionals to ensure success for "all" students.

Core Values

- 1 We believe all children can learn and achieve.*
- 2 We support strategic specialized in-service, pre-service training and professional learning that focuses on the whole child for all stakeholders across the state.*
- 3 We politically advocate for funding, federal/state legislation, policy development, and rule making.*
- 4 We value high quality public education.*
- 5 We promote and endorse professional partnerships for the benefit of student learning/success.*

Big Audacious Goal

MCASE is a driving force in unifying Montana's general and special education to provide high quality, integrated systems of public education, enabling all students to pursue their individualized goals.

Vivid Descriptions

- 1. Politically advocate at the local, state and federal levels to increase sustainable funding for public education enabling students to access the general ed. curriculum and to be career and college ready.*
- 2. MCASE's efforts are reflected in seamless inclusion and support of all students where each student's talents, learning styles, and diversity are celebrated in strength-focused instruction across the state.*
- 3. Create and facilitate recognized models of educational support that are integrated and meet the needs of all students.*
- 4. MCASE supports, promotes and engages in a research-based, continuous improvement system of professional learning for all educators to promote student excellence.*
- 5. Highly qualified personnel are well educated, trained, mentored and working to meet the needs of all students.*

Invitees:

MCASE Board Members:

Karen Underwood
Dave Means
Jenifer Cline
Michelle Halberg/Jenny Malloy
Lisa Von Bergen
Mary Meehan
Laurie Smith
Cheryl Russell
Tamra Covington

SAM:

Executive Director Kirk Miller
Associate Director Pat Audet

OPI Representatives:

State Special Education Director,
Frank Podobnik
Assistant Director, Dick Trerise

CASE Officers:

Jenifer Cline
Emilie Maule

MCASE Members At-large

Welcome and Introductions:

Karen Underwood

Consent Agenda:

Review of Minutes from September 2017

Guest Report(s):

SAM: Executive Director Kirk Miller

Business:

1.1a Adopt Strategic Plan

New SAM website feature, Community Forum

1.1b MCASE Budget and Membership Updates

Healthy budget, approaching a time when we can join a managed property portfolio

1.2a/3.3.1a

MCASE fall conference review

MCEC/MCASE current conference

Awards presentations - assistance

Business Meeting, Friday

Cracker Barrel Session? Topics? Therapist roles, changing delivery models; Resources for Directors; Legislative Efforts/Contacts; School Threats and Responses; Websites and ADA experiences/guidance; Fall Conference Speaker Suggestions

Upcoming Fall 2018 MASS/MCASE Conference

1.3a Review proposed annual meeting schedule And review annual CASE report in light of upcoming activities

1.4 New Leaders Training - review of September mtg. and on-going developments

1.5 Membership options – What do we want from our memberships?

Goals and Strategic Objectives

1. Leadership: Promote and Strengthen Special Education Leadership

Strategic Objectives

1.1 Support active membership through the use of a variety of tools; e.g. social media and personal networking.

1.2 Collaborate with other affiliates in conference planning.

1.3 Increase communication across regional MCASE groups.

1.3.1 Highlight regional discussions on SAM website.

1.4 Promote volunteerism to the SAM Mentorship program.

1.5 Work with SAM to develop an Associate Membership.

2. ***Professional Learning: MCASE will collaborate with state and local professionals including higher education to anticipate and provide professional learning opportunities that address the complex needs of learners.***

2.1 Continued support of MCEC

Strategic Objectives

- 2.1. *MCASE will publicize/distribute information regarding professional development opportunities throughout the state.*
- 2.2. *MCASE will invite experts in areas of need such as social skills training, autism, trauma, etc. to increase capacity of all educational providers.*
- 2.3. *MCASE will seek input from the field on priorities for professional development.*

3. Advocacy: Promote and strengthen advocacy for sufficient special education funding and for an integrated system to ensure success for "all" students.

Strategic Objectives

3.1 Engage in political advocacy

3.1.1 Regional and local representation and advocacy

3.1.2 Statewide: study group/task force representation, Delegate Assembly, call to action opportunities, and representation during legislative sessions.

3.1.3 Nationally: increased representation at National CASE Conference, Washington DC legislative training, and representation during legislative sessions.

3.2 Partner with General Education Initiatives

3.2.1 MTSS

3.2.2 Common Core

3.2.3 Graduation Matters

3.2.4 ESSA implementation

3.3 Collaborate with agencies, groups and families.

3.3.1 Explore partnerships with mental health providers and/or agencies (EG. CSCT, private therapists, residential and day treatment facilities etc.)

3.3.2 Collaborate with hospitals/clinics

3.1.1a Region Reports

3.1.1b, 3.1.2a January Committee Mtg. on Funding Delegate Assembly, Representation based on SAM Regions
Region 1: Mary Meehan
Region 2: Lisa Von Bergen
Region 3: Cheryl Russell (SAM, 4)
Region 4: Tamra Covington
Region 5: Michelle Halberg

Resolutions due April 27, 2018

3.1.1b Recruitment review, budget and activities

3.1.3 July D.C. trip and upcoming federal topics –
Jenifer Cline and Tamra Covington

Copper Patronage of CASE?

3.3.1a Director requests board support to renew MT Recruitment Project contract in spring provided terms are comparable and we have not yet reached our sustainability figure

3.3.1b CSPD Discussion

Attachments to follow or be provided:

Minutes from September Meeting
Membership Options
Recruitment Budget and Overview
CASE reporting template

Created on 8-4-16. Strategic Planning Team: Chris Bilant, Dave Means, Karen Underwood, Lisa VonBergen, Chris Rice, Michelle Halberg, Laurie Salo, Dale Lambert, Tamara Covington. Facilitated by Kirk Miller. 9-12-16

Notes from MCASE Business Meeting on Sunday, September 18, 2017

Today's meeting was called to order at 3:57 p.m. on September 18, 2017 by President Elect, Michelle Halberg in the absence of President, Karen Underwood.

Michelle referenced the MCASE website for meeting participants in order to access information related to MCASE, as well as School Administrators of Montana (SAM) and its other affiliates. She acknowledged Jenifer Cline (OPI and past MCASE President) for supporting our organization and collaborating with Dave Means in temporarily filling the role of MCASE Past President due to transition of multiple officers within recent years.

Executive Board Members (Halberg, Covington, Meehan, Von Bergen) also introduced themselves and discussed their roles within their districts, Co-ops, and regions. Michelle also indicated that Laurie Smith was unable to attend the business meeting and is now on the MCASE Governing Board as the CEC Representative.

Michelle discussed changes to the Communication Sciences Dept. at the U of M from which many of our School Speech Pathologists are trained and recruited. Steven Moats (CSD Clinical Coordinator) is leaving UM for alternate position. There have been recent conversations with him about certification for Speech Assistants in areas where Speech Path positions are not able to be filled, as well as conversations related to UM emphasis on the Ph. D. Program for Speech Pathologists. Laurie Ruffier (Recruitment Project) also discussed that she is now unable to access first and second year Graduate students to talk about school positions in Montana as part of the Recruitment Project.

Michelle talked about the great work of so many MCASE members, Special Educators, Related Service Providers and community partners throughout the state of Montana and encouraged us to begin thinking of people within our districts, coops, and regions who should be nominated for awards throughout the state. There are multiple awards opportunities throughout the different affiliates of SAM.

Kirk Miller, Executive Director of SAM, encouraged participants to attend the OPI meeting tomorrow to get updated information related to DPHHS cuts and the impact on Part C to B transitions, as well as other funding and legislative/legal matters related to schools and Special Education. He also encouraged new persons to connect with OPI staff throughout the year for additional support and resources. He talked about the kickoff for New Administrator/Director training and collaboration with OPI to offer it on Sept. 19 and 20 in Billings following this MCASE/MASS Conference and the benefits to a network of support.

Kirk also discussed the Special Education New Directors Collegial Learning Network. Jeff Blessum is a provider and facilitating the special education coaches/providers within the program with Godfrey Saunders collaborating with OPI to be sure all needs are addressed and plan for collaborative opportunities between colleagues/participants. It is a great opportunity for mentoring and personalized learning specific to needs of district, schools, or personnel.

Michelle Halberg discussed the MCASE Budget and that membership is slightly lower than in the past. She addressed the importance of being able to tell current and future administrators what MCASE has to offer them individually, as well as their district, schools, or coops. Additional topics included:

- Reminding people of discounted membership for those enrolling in more than one Sam affiliate.
- MCASE Executive Board agreed to add \$5000 to the line item of National Legislative Leadership Conference to allow an MCASE Representation at the national level. This will strengthen our presence in lawmaking, as well as allow networking efforts between all Montana educationally focused agencies and their senators. Tamra Covington will be representing MCASE at the next conference.
- Rick Duncan, Jenifer Cline, and Emily Maule discussed the value of a MT presence at National Conferences.
- MCASE investment threshold is 150% of the operating budget.
- MCASE contributes \$4,000 annually to build a reserve, or “nest egg” to sustain the Recruitment Project if needed in the event that enrollment does not cover costs. The goal was for MCASE to build \$25,000, then back out of that responsibility and allow it to sustained independently.

Lori Ruffier reported on the Recruitment Project.

- Please see her entire report within the MCASE Board of Directors tab: sammt.org
- Explained reasons and benefits of the Recruitment Project.
- Discussed a national shortage in Special Education related positions.
- She attended her first “virtual” career fair this year to recruit students to consider jobs in schools. The Home Grown program in high schools to recruit students into Special education related positions such as Teachers, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Pathologists. etc. is strong. Lori highlighted the Recruitment tab within MCASE as it has suggestions how to promote career fairs in your high schools.
- She also spoke to the Montana High School Counselors Association to encourage them to suggest Special Education positions to students as possible career opportunities.
- Sanders County Co-op received 9 applicants for the Special Education Director position.
- \$150 per year is the cost for a Class C school to join the Recruitment Project.

Dale Lambert broached the question of how to better support and assure sustainable funding for the Recruitment Project. The Recruitment Committee will work on how to best address this concern. The membership was asked to email Lori Ruffier with feedback regarding the Recruitment Project, as well as suggestions related to improving and sustaining it.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

MCASE Membership Information

Full Membership (Includes MCASE, CEC, and CASE) \$360.00

Associate (Includes MCASE and CEC) \$144.00

Full Student (Includes MCASE, CEC, and CASE) \$151.00

Retired Life Member (Includes MCASE, CASE, and CEC) \$151.00

(No longer have MCASE/CASE options without CEC; CASE requires CEC membership; change made mid-year and we absorbed cost difference.)

Here is a listing of the available divisions of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) for you to join:

- Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD)
- Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD)
- Division for Early Childhood (DEC)
- Division on Autism & Development Disabilities (DADD)
- CEC Pioneers Division (CEC-PD)
- Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)
- Teacher Education Division (TED)
- Division for Communicative Disabilities and Deafness (DCDD)
- The Association for the Gifted (TAG)
- Council for Education Diagnostic Services (CEDs)
- Division for Physical, Health & Multiple Disabilities (DPHMD)
- Division on Career Development & Transition (DCDT)
- Technology and Media Division (TAM)
- Division for Research (CEC-DR)
- Division for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)
- Division on Visual Impairment (DVI)
- Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES)
- Division for Visual and Performing Arts Education - (DARTS)

Organizational Dues:

Please note that the CASE dues of \$60.00 are already calculated for you in the SAM dues totaling \$200.00. Annual membership dues in CEC include \$24.00 for a subscription to *Exceptional Children* and \$36.00 for *TEACHING Exceptional Children*. Annual membership dues in CCBD Division include \$8.00 for subscription to *Behavioral Disorders*, annual membership dues in DDD Division include \$8.00 for subscription to *Education and Training in Development Disabilities*. This information is given in order to meet postal regulations. Please do not use as a basis for payment. The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) office processes the CEC Dues with divisions that you have chosen individually as well as the Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education (MCASE). **Dues should be sent directly to SAM not to CEC.** Contributions or gifts to SAM are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, dues payments may be deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense.