



MONTANA COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATORS for SPECIAL EDUCATION

Leadership Advocating Support and Success for ALL Students

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President: Michelle Halberg

President Elect: Sean Maharg

Past President: Karen Underwood

Secretary: Jenny Malloy

Region Representatives: Pam Pettigrew, Lisa Von Bergen, Tamra Covington, Mary Meehan

MCEC Representative: Shelley Dempsey

I. Welcome and Introductions – Michelle Halberg

President Michelle Halberg called the September 22, 2019 Board meeting to order at 6:05 PM at the GranTree Hotel in Bozeman, MT.

Present: Michelle Halberg, Tamra Covington, Karen Underwood, Jenny Malloy, Sean Maharg, Mary Meehan, Lisa Von Bergen, Pam Pettigrew, Emilie Maule

Absent: Shelley Dempsey

II. Consent Agenda: June 14, 2019: Minutes (Motion/Discussion/Action)

Michelle reviewed the meeting minutes from June 14, 2019. Pam Pettigrew moved to approve the meeting minutes for June 14, 2019. Mary Meehan seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Budget-Informational

Michelle reviewed the MCASE Financial Report of 2018-19 and 2019-20. The membership component and revenue will be discussed on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 during the scheduled MCASE membership meeting.

Karen discussed where financial support comes from with the basis of membership and recruitment. She discussed that the CASE Copper Patronage was built into the budget. In addition, there is money set aside for national conferences and legislative work. The goal is to get the budget to a level where MCASE can begin to invest in the budget.

Michelle discussed that planning conferences in conjunction with an affiliate is to share the cost of the conference facility and speakers as well as to work together with other educational leaders. Discussion of possible affiliates outside of MASS took place during this time. She discussed the possibility of a stand-alone conference within a rotation.

The discretionary grant from OPI is now \$15,000 and largely supports the Montana Schools Recruitment project. President Elect, Sean, will be working with Gary Wagner at SAM and coordinating with Lori Ruffier and Kaitlin Sonderer for the annual report required to then submit the grant.

IV. MCASE Goals and Strategic Objectives:

1. Leadership-Promote and Strengthen Special Education Leadership

1.1. – Support active membership through the use of variety of tools (e.g. social media and personal networking) Solicit membership and establish committees for the following:

MCASE Constitution: Michelle discussed the need for regional representatives to do continual work on the MCASE constitution. Karen feels that the documents need to be reviewed with additions of timelines, roles and responsibilities, updates in general to align with SAM. The desire is to have a broad representation. She would like to engage the region representation more. This could be made into a working document for an increase in accessibility. Karen recommended that the process begin smaller with fewer members and then move to a larger group for approval. Kirk Miller can support this work.

MCASE Strategic Plan review 2020: Michelle discussed that the Strategic Plan will need input from the board.

Co-op Directors and OPI: Karen will continue to take the lead during the Co-op Directors and OPI. Tamra discussed that big districts have as much of a role in supporting cooperatives as the smaller districts feed into the bigger districts. Discussions need to take place to extinguish the misconceptions about cooperatives.

Karen discussed that there will be continued discussions regarding funding.

1. 3 -Increase communication across regional MCASE groups. Region Reports:

Region I- Pam Pettigrew: Pam reviewed membership for Region I. Updates were made to the membership list. Pam will collect additional names within her region. Pam discussed that she is setting up a meeting with the principal's association in Region I. This will allow her to discuss hot topics in special education with administrators. Pam requested that she be included in the Region III meetings if possible.

Region II –Lisa Von Bergen: Lisa reviewed membership for Region II. Lisa is excited to see the membership turn out for Region II. She informed the board that Browning representatives often will participate in Region V; however, they have not attended lately.

Region III – Tamra Covington: Tamra informed that Region III has not met this year. Karen informed the board that there is a new director in Laurel, Sara Evans, which should be added.

Region IV – Michelle Halberg: Michelle reviewed the membership for Region IV. Michelle informed the board that Jenny Malloy has agreed to take over as the Region IV representative.

Region V – Mary Meehan: Mary reviewed the membership for Region V. Mary discussed that membership is often split with location and communication. She is confident in the work that the region has done. They have shared resources and professional development opportunities.

Michelle recommended that regions post agendas and meeting minutes to the SAM website.

1.3.1 – Highlight regional discussions on SAM website- Michelle

1.3.1. a. Promote recognition of outstanding Leaders in your regions:

MCASE: Special Ed. Director, Special Ed Teacher, General Ed. Teacher

CASE: Harrie M. Selznick CASE Distinguished Service Award; CASE Outstanding Administrator of Special Education Award; Outstanding Service to CASE Award; CASE Early Career Special Education Administrator Award

Michelle and Emilie discussed promoting recognition of outstanding leaders in each region. As the MCEC representative, board member's felt that Shelley could take the lead with this. Michelle will reach out to Shelley to ask for her help in coordinating MCEC and MCASE awards.

Emilie recommended that Frank Podobnik be nominated for the Harrie M. Selznick CASE Distinguished Service Award.

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.a Leader's Professional Learning Program LPLP- Social-Emotional Learning, Tier III Behavior Project; Special Education

The Leader's Professional Learning Program was discussed Michelle has joined the LPLP and encouraged others join this program as well especially since there is now a group addressing "Tier III Behaviors".

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.

2.2 a. 2020-MCEC/MCASE Conference- Shelley: (Report submitted after the conference):

After the meeting Shelley Dempsey provided a written MCEC Report in her absence. The MCEC Conference is scheduled Missoula for February 19-21 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The theme is "Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, Shaping the Future."

MCEC is looking at OPI, Early Childhood, Secondary Transition, Montana Autism Education Project, Gifted Education, Dyslexia, and Speech and Paraeducator Regulations per ESSA for topics. They are taking suggestions for someone that could do the Paraeducator Regulation session. MCEC is inquiring on sessions from MCASE or members of MCASE that would like to present.

Other sessions that were planned/considered are as follows: Kevin Honeycutt, Jeff & Dean

Paul Artale on Human Resource Management, The Transformative Reading Teacher with Dr. Nell Thompson, Anna Baldwin Spark, California Teacher of the Year on Inclusive Education for all Students, Susan Henze on Co-teaching, Ann Garfinkle, Laurie Barron, Shawna Heiser, Elizabeth Kalava on Section 504, Stacy York on Trauma, Jessica Minahan, Eliza Sorte, Michael McCreary on Autism, Ann Ellsworth on Reading and Writing Workshops, Anita Archer, Wayne Callender.

2.2 b. 2020- MCASE Fall Conference-Michelle: Michelle will send out a survey to gather additional information for the Fall MCASE Conference in 2020.

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

3.1 Engage in Political Advocacy

3.1. a. CEC Legislative Summit: DC- Tamra Covington: Tamra gave an update of the Legislative Summit. She recommended that MCASE consider a rotation in MCASE representation at the Legislative Summit.

3.2 Partner with General Education Initiatives

3.2. a. Interim Education Committee

The board discussed having some representation at committee meetings and interactions with the Interim Education Committee. Michelle encouraged others to follow the meeting agendas and minutes that come out of the meetings. There are audio recordings to listen to as well.

Next meeting dates: September 11-12, 2019
November 21-22, 2019 (in Bozeman)
January 16, 2020
March 19-20, 2020
June 15-16, 2020
September 14, 2020

3.2. b. Recruitment and Retention

3.2.c. Common Topics: Dyslexia; Preschool 4yr. olds

Discussion took place regarding Dyslexia screenings and options for screenings that are currently implemented in districts.

V. Other Non-agenda items discussed

A. Tuesday Membership Mtg Agenda:

B. PLUK: Tamra requested that an additional topic of PLUK be added to the membership meeting agenda held on Tuesday. PLUK will close on September 30th and representation will be taken over by Montana PTI. Further discussion through OPI is needed.

VI. Meeting adjourned: There being no further business Sean Maharg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Mary Meehan seconded the motion.