



MONTANA COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATORS for SPECIAL EDUCATION

Leadership Advocating Support and Success for ALL Students

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www.sammt.org

MCASE Board Web Meeting

September 20, 2020

2:00 – 3:30 pm via Zoom

Join [SAM Zoom](#)

President: Michelle Halberg

President Elect: Sean Maharg

Past President: Karen Underwood

Secretary: Jenny Malloy

Region Representatives: Pam Pettigrew (I), Lisa Von Bergen (II), Chelsey Rogers (III), Jenny Malloy (IV), Mary Meehan (V)

CEC/CASE Federal Advocacy; Delegate Assembly Steering Committee: Tamra Covington

MCEC Representative: Shelley Dempsey

MCASE/CASE Membership Committee: Emilie Maule

Montana Schools Recruitment Project: Kaitlin Sonderer

Other Attendees: Gary Wagner, Kirk Miller

Present: Michelle Halberg, Tamra Covington, Karen Underwood, Jenny Malloy, Sean Maharg, Mary Meehan, Lisa Von Bergen, Pam Pettigrew, Emilie Maule (joined by phone), Chelsey Rogers, Sara Novak, Kaitlin Sonderer, Kirk Miller, Gary Wagner

Absent: Shelley Dempsey, Sean Maharg

MCASE President Michelle Halberg, Presiding

President Michelle Halberg called the September 20, 2020 Board meeting to order at 2:01 PM via virtual meeting through Zoom.

Proposed Agenda Items:

1. Consent Agenda: MCASE Board Minutes 02/19/20 (**Discussion/Motion/Action**)

Michelle reviewed the meeting minutes from February 19, 2020. Pam moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 19, 2020. Lisa seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Montana Schools Recruitment Project (*Kaitlin Sonderer*) **(Informational)**

Kaitlin gave an update on the Montana Schools Recruitment Project, MSRP. She discussed the Lori Ruffier Legacy Scholarship and options for nomination. The MSRP has been working on a new web page with the “Beyond the Chalk” guys that will create a digital map of posted positions and can be printed. This new website will be accessible through the SAM website. A focus will be on streamlining the Project data and bringing attention to their branding. Kaitlin shared her contact information: (406) 570-4976; samkms@sammt.org The MSRP page on SAM website: <https://saom.memberclicks.net/mcase-recruitment-project>

2. CEC Special Education Legislative Summit/Federal Legislation Update (*Tamra Covington and Sara Novak*) **(Informational)**

Sara and Tamra gave an overview of the CEC Special Education Legislative Summit/Federal Legislation. Meetings were secured with all three state representatives. Discussions were around mental health needs and funding. There has not been any action taken at the federal level, specifically in the area of funding. [CASE Legislative Web-Page](#)

3. MCEC/MCASE Spring Conference – (*Shelley Dempsey*) **(Informational)**

“The MCEC board decided not to have the conference in 2021. They felt they had to make a decision to go forward or not because we had to book the site so far in advance. We discussed going virtual as well but for many of the following reasons and people being overwhelmed with virtual meetings, decided that was not a good option. The board felt that we could not pin down topics to cover that would be of interest to the education community due to the ever-changing world of the pandemic. We also wondered about teachers being able to request subs to attend. In the end, there were too many unanswered questions to plan a successful event.” (Shelley’s Written Report as she was not be able to attend)

Discussion took place regarding holding an MCASE Membership meeting in the spring. This would allow for MCASE awards to take place and the opportunity to provide professional development.

4. Expanding MCASE Leadership: (*Michelle Halberg*)

a.) Region Representatives, Advocacy at the State and Federal level, President-Elect Nomination **(Informational)**

Michelle discussed expanding MCASE leadership. Region meetings have had a strong impact, specifically during school building closures due to COVID-19.

Michelle discussed that the President-Elect position is open for 2021-2023. The MCASE membership will be apprised of this opportunity and solicited for nominations individually or through their Regions to the Governing Board/MCASE President.

b.) Attendance and Financial Support for Annual CASE Conference in November (President, President Elect 2nd Yr.; Case/MCASE Membership 2nd Yr.): **(Discussion/Motion/Action)**

Michelle gave an overview of the financial allowance within the current MCASE budget for CEC Special Education Legislative Summit and annual CASE conferences. A motion was requested to add a CASE/MCASE Membership representative to attend the CASE conference. Karen moved to approve the motion. Mary seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

c. MCASE Committees: **(Discussion/Motion/Action)**

Board members discussed the proposed changes to the MCASE Constitution.

Current Language within the MCASE Constitution and Proposed Changes:

“The standing committees shall be as follows:

- ~~Promote and Strengthen Special Education Leadership~~
- Promote and Strengthen Preparation Programs and professional development for Educational Leaders Administrators, Teachers and Special Education Professionals.
- Promote and Strengthen Advocacy for an Integrated System that Meets All Students’ Needs
- Promote and Strengthen State and Federal Advocacy for students with disabilities
- Developing and Strengthening the SLP program in Montana.
- Promote and strengthen MCASE membership
- Promote recruitment and retention of special education positions”

“There shall be ~~five (5) regional~~ at least two (2) committee meetings at least between the two semi-annual business MCASE Governing Board meetings and working on established priorities of the organization committee. The Governing Board shall serve as the nominating committee for establishment of MCASE Committee Chairperson. The Immediate Past President shall chair. Calls for nomination will circulate by email at least thirty (30) days prior to the spring business meeting. Email balloting shall follow/occur during the Spring MCASE business meeting and results will be announced at the close of balloting one week later.”

Board members discussed the proposed changes to the MCASE Constitution.

Suggested changes to the MCASE Constitution to redefine MCASE Committees will be reviewed by the Executive Board and brought before the next MCASE Membership Mtg.

5. Approval of MCASE Budget – (Gary Wagner) **(Discussion/Motion/Action)**

Gary gave an overview of the MCASE Budget, including the Fall Conference revenue. There are two discretionary grants this year (i.e. annual application for MCASE support of Montana School Recruitment Project, new grant focusing on school culture). A motion was requested to approve the MCASE Budget as reviewed. Pam moved to approve the MCASE Budget as reviewed. Lisa seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. MCASE Membership: MCASE Membership (Michelle Halberg, Emilie Maule; Gary Wagner) **(Informational)**

- Current Membership
- Proposed changes to costs
- Website
- Membership Drive

Michelle and Gary discussed current membership descriptions and fees, increased cost for Full CEC membership. Proposed changes to costs and descriptions of four membership categories: Full Membership, Basic Membership, Student, University/College Faculty and Retired Member. Suggestions to these changes were provided by Mary, Pam, Karen and Gary. Michelle will take this to an Executive Board meeting for further refinement and include Emilie Maule, CASE/MCASE Membership and Gary Wagner.

7. Proposed changes to [MCASE Roles and Responsibilities](#):*(Michelle Halberg)*
(Discussion/Motion/Action)

Michelle reviewed the MCASE Roles and Responsibilities document with the board members.

A motion was requested to change the MCASE Roles and Responsibilities language as discussed per the Governing Board. The greatest change was to develop a section that outlines the Roles and Responsibilities for the five (5) Regional Chairs. Mary moved to approve the language changes to the MCASE Roles and Responsibilities as reviewed and proposed. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Delegate Assembly and Preparing for Legislative Year – [Executive Director Update](#) : *Kirk Miller*

Kirk will discuss the outcomes of the Delegate Assembly and updates on special education funding at the MCASE Membership meeting.

9. Finalize Agenda for the membership meeting on Tuesday *(Michelle Halberg)*

Michelle solicited input into the draft agenda for the MCASE Membership meeting that will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd. She will make changes and submit it to SAM/Kirk prior to the Tuesday meeting.

10. Adjourn/Next Mtg. **(Motion)**

There being no further business Pam moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 PM. The motion was seconded by Lisa. Next meeting tentatively scheduled in February 2021.