

**MCASE Region IV Meeting
November 29, 2018**

I. Introduction: Jody Bartz, new MSU Professor in the Early Childhood Department.

Came from Arizona with Master's in Special Education. Has family with Autism so "those" kids are "her" kids. She has worked as a Special Education Teacher and Special Education Director with all of her experience in the rural communities on the Arizona/New Mexico border.

She is working on getting a special education endorsement program at MSU. She has surveyed students in the current introduction to special ed. course to see who would take advantage of a special ed. endorsement program and 38 hands were raised! Loves teaching teachers. Lori Ruffier would love to provide data on the needs for sped teachers across the state. Currently she works in the Health and Human Development Department but also straddles the fence with education. President and Dean are supportive.

Jody asked what are the Strengths and Needs of the Region?

*Diversify license,

* Teachers fear sped endorsement as they are afraid they will be trapped in sped, especially in the more rural areas.

* MSU B offer the sped option but OPI does not license.

* Need online courses as folks cannot leave their families or job to travel for course work.

* We need student teachers in our rural schools.

* Only have 5 coming out of Carrol College. Bozeman use to have a rich applicant pool and would share out with other districts. Now we hold onto the few that we do get in the applicant pool. Now we compete with each other.

* Recruiting within our gen ed teachers.

*Salary plays a big role. work in our schools before student teaching so they have met admin and staff with a hope of a commitment once graduated and they like the field/job responsibilities.

* Also need Paraeducators; Para shortage-Livingston \$14.72 hour plus benefits. Not getting career paras. Losing them to the community. Learning Hub and strong training program at OPI. Would it be beneficial to provide funding to get credit to support a degree. Inclusive of instructional paras. Need a good evaluation tool.

* Licensure from out of state is hard.

* Higher Ed have been good partners overall to develop basic competencies for graduating teachers.

*Who mentors in rural area?

* Need soft skills-how to present in a meeting.

MCASE asked Jody to keep us involved and be sure invite us to any department meetings for discussion. We would be happy to present and provide letters of support.

Jody would like to send out an electronic survey to support the conversation. Recommended to send survey to the at large MCASE group. Send to Jenny Malloy and she will get it on the SAM tool. Recommend Jody get a booth at MCEC.

Contact: Jody M. Bartz, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health & Human Development
316 B Herrick Hall
P.O. Box 173540
(406) 994-5011
jody.bartz@montana.edu

II. MCASE Advocacy

Michelle asked the group to think about a having someone be the Region rep to delegate assembly in the future as she steps into her role as President.

Advocacy for this legislative session. Although being involved might seem a little intimidating at first there is a great deal of support from SAM. Michelle described the legislative network process. If we have people who have an interest in a specific bill, they could track and provide information out to the other folks. The group discussed getting more legislators aware of and knowledge about special education. Being a resource to our legislators about what is working in special education and why is as important to sharing our challenges. Letters of support for bills should not just be about the money (although budget is critical to providing services) but to paint an accurate picture of special education. Budget for sped funding will be a big discussion this session.

Sara shared that Senator Jones had remarked that increased funding for Co-op would not be likely as they are over qualifying. There continues to be a lack of understanding about how Co-ops support Districts. Scott knows Senator Jones and will reach out to him. In his opinion, it is helpful to reach out to trustee's and a broad range of individuals who understand special education and are willing to be involved and write letters.

Consider using the Interim Education Report for sharing out information to new legislators. Michelle will share it out to the group. Dan is on the Governor's Board for Mental Health and will talk to her. They want to hear about how you are using the funding and so we need to be more objective in our information and less emotional (e.g. how many lawsuits due to a lack of resources to provide services) Are parents are involved? SEPTA-Chad help shape the conversation for lobbying?

Now is the critical time to form the relationships before the session starts. Let them know that we are supportive of the Governor's budget for education. Make it short and sweet. Put energy into what Kirk asks us to do. Find neutral people to ask for the support. We need to be a united front. We are so thankful for Kirk and Pat representing MCASE on the hill.

Michelle will share the SAM advocacy link with SAM Priorities and talking points.

III. Special Education Advisory Board: Student with disability

Looking for student representation for the Board. Hotel and travel will be paid for. If you have a student/parent, please contact Dick Trerise.

IV. Upcoming Professional Development:

A. MCEC/MCASE: February 20th-22nd in Helena MT.

1. Awards : **Please consider nominating!**

CSPD: para, para/teacher,

MCASE: reg ed, sped director, sped teacher,

CEC: business, teacher, public service, sped research,

2. Scholarships

B. CSPD Region IV - Shelley was not available to share today. Look for CSPD announcements for opportunities in the next several months. Please contact her if you have a speaker or topic to share.

C. Gallatin-Madison Special Ed. Coop:

-12/12/18, 2:00-4:00 pm: "Section 504" with Bea Kaleva.

Request came from school counselors. Contact Michelle if you have folks who want to attend.

- 1/21/19, all day: Universal Design for Learning with Logan Janicula/Goalbook

Contact Michelle Halberg for details.

D. Other:

-Dan-AWARE new CEO-Matt Bugni-invite him to come to our meeting

-Invite Marvin to update us on CSCT program. Vaughn also wanted to attend.

- Youth Challenge-full accreditation-want to join a Co-Op-Frank said can't join but could contract unless the accreditation. Youth Challenge through the military on Western campus. Can be court ordered. Not a treatment center.

-MPDG classes-what are the district's planning for the number of students-18 or 20? teacher/para? ANB?

V. Recruitment

ASHA Conference-serious candidates who may come to MT-7 students have a connection in MT. 2 students who want to go to Browning. Some interested in Kalispell. All 7 are still talking to Lori. Jenny has some staff: 2 speech path, 1 psych, part time OT, 2 sped teachers

Helena needs 1 psychs

Manhattan-possibility of 1 sped teacher

Great Divide-1 psych and possibility of a speech path

Lori: Re-specialization for Psychs-Dec. 14th- survey right now to see what the interest is across the state.

Lori has OTs who want to be in MT-needs to know where the needs are.

Future-Virtual Career Fair

Lori will retire May 2020

Next Meeting in January 2019.