

META Board of Directors

Executive Director Update

May 15, 2019



Greetings META Board members! Below is a brief update of SAM and META activities for the 2018-19 school year. META is accomplishing great work on behalf of Montana's students!

1. Review of Strategic Plan
 - The [META Strategic Plan 2014-18](#) webpage is the location of the plan as reviewed and [updated](#) on September 14, 2018. The [META Organization](#) document was reviewed and updated in January 2019.
 - SAM [Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 3rd Quarter 2018-19](#) is on the [SAM Strategic Plan](#) webpage for reference and review. The SAM Board approved an updated SAM Strategic Plan 2018-22 in October and this is the second report on the new, updated strategic plan.
2. Review of Financials
 - [Adopted META Budget 2019-20](#) is for discussion of current FY 2018-19 progress and possible amendment to FY 2019-20 budget.
 - SAM continues to develop Business Partners in the best interest our members. Review the [SAM Business Partners 2018-19](#) by Sponsorship Level to know who our partners are, and the support they provide for our association.
3. Leadership Involved in Decisions that Impact Education
 - AKA – SAM members working together to literally have a seat at the table (input) on all efforts that impact the education of Montana's children.
 - Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update 1-9-19](#) and [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#).
 - [MT Critical Quality Educator Shortage Report 2018-19](#)
 - [MT 2018 R&R Survey Results](#) and [Summary](#) implications on future recruitment & retention efforts.
 - [GREAT 2018](#) - The Great Work of Montana's Public Schools volume VI was released at MCEL on 10-18-18, see the [Press Release](#) available for you to tell the story about your local schools.
 - [Montana ESSA](#) and [ESSA Implementation Plan](#). Embargoed ESSA Report Card release to public on 4/30/19. [School Report Card Data Details for Districts](#) released 4/30/19.
 - [School Safety](#) and [MT-PEC Project Safe Schools](#) and [Suicide Prevention](#)
 - [Broadband for MT Schools Program – Back-to-School Letter](#)
 - Negotiated Rule Making Committees – [Student Assessment](#) and [MT Hazard & Emergency Response](#)
 - The [SAM Needs Assessment 2019 Executive Summary](#) and the [SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2019](#) provides information for our association's future professional learning, advocacy and items important to our attention toward.
 - [META Board Election Rotation Schedule](#) for META board review.
 - [SAM Events – June 2019](#)
4. Advocacy
 - [2019 Legislative Session, SAM Legislative Updates, SAM 2019 Legislative Session DRAFT Summary, MT-PEC plans for Leveraging Flexibility in Times of Scarcity](#).
 - [SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions](#) and prep for [Delegate Assembly 2019](#)
 - [Federal Advocacy](#)
 - The MQEC Board of Directors consisting of several SAM member superintendents and associations are preparing to protect the education provisions of the Montana Constitution as applied to the implementation of SB 410 (2017 Tuition Tax Credit bill). Click [HERE](#) for more details. The Montana Supreme Court heard the [Espinoza et al. v. Montana Department of Revenue](#) case on April 6, 2018 in Missoula. On December 12,

2018, the Montana Supreme Court issued a favorable decision in Espinoza et al., finding [15-30-3111 MCA](#) (the tax credit for donations to private schools) unconstitutional. [Read the decision here.](#)

5. Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- The [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program \(LPLP\) 2019-20](#) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators now in its fifth year. Over this time, the LPLP has supported nearly 350 administrators. See the [SAM LPLP 2017-18 Executive Summary](#). Currently, 54 administrators are in the LPLP forming [Collegial Learning Networks](#) with coach/mentors to personalize a professional learning plan enhancing their ability to serve their students, school and community! Review the [SAM LPLP 2018-19 Mid Year Executive Summary](#) to see the significant progress being made. The SAM LPLP has recently added the Washington Foundation as a business sponsor!
- [SAM Administrators Institute 2019](#), scheduled for July 29-31, 2019 in Helena – get ready for “The Montana HOW”! – intended to engage and prepare you and your team for the 2019-20 school year!
- [MCEL 2019](#) (October 16-18, 2019) “Each Child. Every School.” will be in Billings and planning is underway.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 11 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ ‘[Conferences](#)’ tab on the website.
- [SAM Membership 2018-19 3rd Quarter Report](#)
- [SAM Youth Endowment](#) – help a worthy student/family by completing the online [nomination](#) form.
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, [SAM Bulletin](#) and weekly [SAM Update](#), colleague networks, state and federal advocacy networks, legal assistance, professional liability insurance, technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions, use of social media, E-Lists, digital [Community Forums](#) to enhance member communication, many more...
- Make sure to follow SAM on Twitter [@MTEDLeadership](#) and on Facebook at *Sam Montana*

6. SAM Office Update and SAM Resources

- The [SAM office transition and restructure 2019](#) is currently being implemented. The SAM Board approved a [recommendation for the SAM office organization and staffing 2019-20](#) at their April meeting.
- YH Advisors (Brian Yacker, Partner), are working well with support for payroll, bookkeeping, and tax completion services – this assists with our financial operation and with internal controls important to the viability of our finances. Currently working to complete 2017 Taxes for SAM and MASS.
- SAM continues implementation of association management software (MemberClicks) upgrading our website, database and tools for all SAM members. Web-based communication tools for the use of our Members include: 1. E-Lists – to be used as a notification tool in which responses are emailed to an entire affiliate. Click [HERE](#) to see the instructions on how to use the E-list tool. 2. SAM Community Forums – are discussion tools allowing members to create topics of importance and post messages, documents, links, and subscribe to the topics of interest. Click [DOCUMENT](#) or [VIDEO](#) to learn how to use SAM Community Forums.
- The [SAM website](#) – a one-stop repository for member resources.
- A SAM Conference App has been developed and is being used for all SAM and affiliate conferences.

Thank you META Board members for your outstanding contributions to our profession and service on the board!

Respectfully submitted,



SAM Executive Director