

META Board of Directors

Executive Director Update

January 9, 2019



Hi META Board of Directors. Below is an update of META and SAM activities as the 2018-19 school year begins. Please contact me if you have questions.

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 September 2017.
- [SAM Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 1st Quarter 2018-19](#) is on the [SAM Strategic Plan](#) webpage for reference and review. This is the final report on the progress of the SAM Strategic Plan 2014-18. An updated SAM Strategic Plan 2018-22 was approved by the SAM Board in October 2018.

2. Review of Financials

- [META Financial Report FY 17-18 and FY 2018-19 as of 12-31-18](#) discussion will take place at the Board meeting.

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.
- [Responses](#) to MAEMSP Eastern Region Principal questions/research.
- Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT DRAFT Update 10-25-18](#) and [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#).
 - [MT Critical Quality Educator Shortage Report 2018-19](#)
 - RELNW R&R Survey 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](#).
- [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](#)
- [SAM Needs Assessment 2018 Executive Summary](#) and recently developed [SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2018](#) reveals the continuing priorities of SAM members for professional learning and advocacy. Please complete the [SAM Needs Assessment 2019](#) – due 1-11-19.

4. Advocacy

- [SAM Advocacy Issues 2018-19](#)
- [SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions](#)
- [2019 Legislative Session](#) and the [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#)
- [Federal Advocacy](#)

- The MQEC Board of Directors consisting of several SAM member superintendents and associations are currently reviewing the District and Federal court rulings and preparing for appropriate action to protect the education provisions of the Montana Constitution as applied to the implementation of SB 410 (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 \(LPLP\) 2018-19](#) 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 300 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 that will enhance their ability to serve their students, school and community!
- [SAM Administrators Institute 2018](#), “Empowering Students - Focusing on Leadership of Personalized Learning, Social Emotional Learning, and Information Security”. SAM AI 19 is scheduled for July 29-31, 2019 in Helena!
- [MCEL 2018](#) (October 17-19, 2018) “Be an Agent of Change” was a success in Missoula.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 11 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ [‘Conferences’](#) tab on the website.
- [Montana Principals Conference 2019](#), January 27-29 at the Helena Delta Hotel by Marriott (Colonial)
- [#SAMedchat](#)—weekly chat group to dialogue about key education issues. 7:00-8:00 PM every other Tuesday starting September 25, 2018.
- [SAM Membership 2018-19 2nd Quarter](#) - currently at 1026 members on 11/21/18.
- [SAM and Affiliate Awards](#).
- [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

- The [SAM office transition and restructure 2019](#) will be shared at the 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 on 2017 Taxes for SAM and MASS.
- SAM continues implementation of new association management software (MemberClicks) upgrading our website, database and tools for all SAM members. Web-based communication tools have been created for the use of our Members. E-Lists have been 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. SAM Community Forums (available on January 15, 2018) are discussion tools allowing members to create topics of importance and post messages, documents, and links, and subscribe to the topics they are interested in. Click [DOCUMENT](#) or [VIDEO](#) to learn how to use SAM Community Forums.
- The [SAM website](#), a one-stop repository for member resources, has been fully upgraded.

- A SAM Conference App has been developed and was used for the first time at the SAM AI 18 and is being used for the MASS/MCASE Fall Conference 2018.

Thank you META Board for your leadership of our association and the schools you serve!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirk D. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

SAM Executive Director