

META Board of Directors

Executive Director Update

September 14, 2018



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](#) in September 2017. The [META Organization](#) document was reviewed and updated in September 2017.
 - The [SAM Strategic Plan 2014-18](#) webpage is the location of the [Executive Director's SAM Strategic Plan Report 4th Quarter 2017-18](#).
 - The SAM Board is working to update and renew the SAM Strategic Plan.
2. Review of Financials
 - [META Financial Report FY 17-18 and FY 2018-19 as of 9-13-18](#) discussion will take place at the Board meeting.
3. Contemporary Issues for Discussion
 - [SAM Delegate Assembly Advocacy Package prepared for SAM Business Meeting on 10-19-18](#)
 - [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#)
 - [SAM and Affiliate Awards](#) – [GV Erickson](#), [Erdie Scholarship](#), [MASS School Board of Year](#)
 - Broadband Progress
 - [MT School Broadband Project Update Sept 2018](#)
 - [Broadband Back to School Letter 2018](#)
 - [Montana Broadband Summit 8-29-18 Takeaways 9-11-18](#)
 - [SAM Membership 2018-19 as of 8-31-18](#) currently at 870 members
 - [MT-PEC Project Safe Schools](#)
 - Student Mental Health Issues, [Emergency Planning](#), and [Suicide Prevention](#)
 - Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update](#)
 - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
 - RELNW Survey
 - [Montana ESSA Plan](#)
 - [Federal Advocacy](#)
 - [Broadband for Montana Schools Program](#) announces funding opportunities for school districts fiber/broadband connections and internal networks and WI-FI -- Broadband Back-to-School [LETTER](#) from partners (Governor, State Superintendent, Dept of Commerce and SAM) describes the opportunity for school districts.
 - [SAM LPLP 2018-19](#)
 - [MASS/MCASE Fall Conference 2018](#) – September 17-18, 2018 in Bozeman
 - [MACSS Fall Conference 2018](#) – September 20-21, 2018 in Dillon
 - [SAM Youth Endowment](#) – Online nomination form will be available soon.
 - [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 watch for FY19 SAM Needs Assessment coming in December!

- Make sure to follow SAM on Twitter @MTEDLeadership and on Facebook at *Sam Montana*

4. SAM Office Update

- The SAM office structure is working well. The abilities of Pat Audet, Gary Wagner and Kim Scofield are valuable to our work for all Affiliates.
- 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. They have completed the 2016 Taxes for SAM and MASS.
- SAM continues implementation of new association management software (MemberClicks) upgrading our website, database and tools for all SAM members. Security of and access have been improved on the SAM website through the use of member login. Conference registrations and surveys are upgraded utilizing MemberClicks.
- By request of the SAM Board at their October 2017 meeting, enhanced 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.

5. Montana Unified Schools Trust ([MUST](#)) Update

- SAM is represented on the MUST Board by Brad Moore (Vice President and former Superintendent at Big Sandy), Eldon (Chad) Johnson (Superintendent at Hardin), and Ken Taylor (Superintendent at Froid).
- SAM Executive Director, Kirk Miller serves with Lance Melton (MTSBA) and Eric Feaver (MEA-MFT) on the board of the Montana School Services Foundation (MSSF), the governing board for MUST and the staff who work for the trust.
- Andy Holmlund is President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Jeanen Campbell is the Vice President of Operations.
- Click [HERE](#) for an update from MUST prepared for the SAM Board, June 2018.

6. Montana Quality Education Coalition ([MQEC](#)) Update

- Click [HERE](#) for an update from MQEC prepared for the SAM Board, June 2018.
- MQEC is a key organization in the protection of education clause of the Montana's Constitution.
- 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. Recent developments in the legal challenges have occurred and an update can be provided at the meeting. The Montana Supreme Court heard the [Espinoza et al. v. Montana Department of Revenue](#) case on April 6, 2018 in Missoula. No decision has been rendered at this time.

7. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership Update

- 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.
- Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana’s schools.
- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana’s children!
- In 2017-18 and continuing into 18-19, SAM members have established a strong voice for the actions on: [Montana ESSA Plan](#), [Suicide Prevention](#), PK-12 School Funding Adequacy and Equity, K-12 Vision Group, [Interim Education Committee](#) Priorities, [Preschool](#), [Montana EPAS](#) (Educator Performance Appraisal System, [Broadband for Montana Schools Program](#), [META Website](#) [Accessibility Project](#), Study of Special Education Funding and Services ([HJ 1](#) 2017 legislative session), Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators ([RISE4MT](#), [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), and others), and [Montana Digital Academy](#) to name a few!

8. Professional Learning and Services Update

- 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, 51 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”, provided great learning opportunities for our entire membership. SAM AI 19 is scheduled for July 29-31, 2019 in Helena!
- [MCEL 2018](#) (October 17-19, 2018) “Be an Agent of Change” will be in Missoula and is geared for deeper focus on the professional learning opportunities, less distractions from business and exhibitors, and strong motivation, so plan to attend this newly developed conference.
- [#SAMedchat](#)–weekly chat group to dialogue about key education issues-7:00-8:00 every other Tuesday starting September 25, 2018.
- The [SAM website](#), a one-stop repository for member resources! Check it out!
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 12 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ ‘[Conferences](#)’ tab on the website
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, SAM Bulletin and weekly SAM Updates, 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...
- The [SAM Membership Report](#) webpage has reports on [SAM Membership 2017-18 4th Quarter as of 6-10-18](#) which is finalized at 1058 members (a SAM record) and [SAM Membership 2018-19 as of 8-31-18](#) currently at 870 members.
- META has successfully developed a national affiliation with the Consortium of School Networks (CoSN). A Montana CoSN State Chapter has been formed. Click [HERE](#) to review to learn more about the Chapter. The formation of the Montana CoSN State Chapter permits any SAM member whose META member has joined the Chapter to become a member also, allowing access to the full slate of resources and benefits that CoSN has established.

9. Advocacy Update

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center ([MT-PEC](#)) creating a positive impact and strong voice on education policy issues.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor's office, Board of Public Education, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) has developed a long-range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level ([DA Steering Committee](#), [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#)). Delegate Assembly met on June 14-15, 2018 creating recommendations for [SAM's Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions](#).
- [SAM Advocacy Priorities 2018-19](#) provide direction for SAM Advocacy in upcoming 2019 Legislative Session.
- [Federal Advocacy](#) efforts and relationships with the Montana Congressional Delegation are important.

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.

SAM Executive Director