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School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

Visionary leaders united in providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students!

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In This Issue...

1. [SAM Executive Director Message](#)
2. [MASS and META Spring Conference Registrations](#)
3. [SAM Membership Drive 2023-24](#)
4. [SAM Administrator Openings Posted on Website](#)
5. [CoSN Update](#)

Upcoming Conferences,

All for One and One for All

by Carol Phillips, META President

I recently attended a production of *The Three Musketeers* by The Acting Company. The motto of the Musketeers was, 'All for one, and one for all! Forward, forward, forward!' When I was asked to write this article, I thought it might be a good way to share with you that Technologists should be a part of the decision making team. For a school to move forward and have a well thought out strategic plan the Technologist has to have a seat at the table when it comes to most decisions. In this day and age, technology is involved in just about every aspect of our lives (i.e. smart toasters/refrigerators) and at school. When I chat with most leaders in education they often think of technology as internet access, WIFI, servers, chromebooks, etc. They are surprised when I share with them that technology is in just about everything. For example, there are tank sensors that can be put in water tanks that have a bluetooth option which allows the sensor to connect to a smartphone. Since technology is playing a bigger and bigger role in schools, it only makes sense that your Technologist would need to be involved in more decisions.

Here is just a short list of decisions that would most likely need to include the Technologist at your school:

- Cameras
- HVAC - many have a way to remote into the system to adjust it
- Programmable light switches
- Internet of Things - Amazon Alexa, Google Home, thermostats, doorbells, etc

Meetings, & Events

**Public Education
Day: March 13,
Helena**

**MASS Spring
Conference: March
13-14, Great
Northern, Helena**

**METAtechED:
March 13-14, Delta
Colonial, Helena**

**** [View the full SAM
Calendar](#)****

**Thank you to
this month's
featured
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Partners!**



- Classroom speaker systems
- Phone systems
- Faxes
- Curriculum Choices
- Behavior Tracking - student data privacy laws and network usage
- Streaming of games
- Badging/keys/security systems
- Software decisions tied to testing data

In the Montana Educational Technologists Association (META) we often say that no network is one size fits all. That is why it is absolutely critical that you engage with your Technologist to let them know what you are hoping to achieve before you finalize your decision. They can let you know if what you are planning will have any impact on the network, if it will work on the network, and if there are any concerns regarding privacy, connectivity, or vulnerabilities. It is much easier to engage them before the decision is finalized then to find out that what you planned won't work after it is installed. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that budgets may need to be adjusted to account for the additional responsibilities, equipment, etc. I know that is a sore point as most schools do not have the budget to maintain what they already have. As we continue to move forward in educating the students of Montana let us remember to cry out All for one, and one for all! Forward, forward, forward!

*Carol Phillips
META President*

Where have we been? Where are we going?

by Dr. Rob Watson, SAM Executive Director

Spring typically brings an opportunity for organizations to reflect on what has been accomplished as well as think about what is next. I thought we could take a few moments to reflect on what I consider to be recent accomplishments for SAM and what I see as potential areas of growth for our organization. I would welcome your thoughts and ideas as we consider what is important to SAM.

As you may know, the [SAM strategic plan](#) has three main goal areas: (1) Leadership, (2) Advocacy, and (3) Professional Learning. The SAM staff, working collaboratively with the Board, have experienced much success in all three areas. Here are a few of the highlights:

- SAM and its members have maintained a “seat at the table” for important educational discussions in a variety of venues. Evidence of this strategy has happened with the Board of Public Ed, the 2023 Legislature and the Coalition of Advocates for MT Public Schools (formally MT-PEC).
- SAM has continued to be the “go-to” organization for research based strategies that help our leaders succeed. We provided opportunities for our members to engage in relevant learning topics, such as



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employee wellness and community engagement. In addition, we have offered innovative opportunities, such as AASA Learning 2025, to keep our members up-to-date with the most current practices in continuous improvement.

- SAM has continued to promote equitable access to quality education for all students, as evidenced by [HB15](#), which implements the inflationary increases for schools and [HB332](#), which would establish a statewide health insurance trust opportunity for schools to maintain reasonable and quality insurance opportunities for employees.
- The SAM Legislative Network ([SAMLN23](#)) was revived with the opening of the 68th legislative session. In this effort, SAM continues to champion and support our members as the best advocates for public education. The SAMLN23 “call to action” has been essential in preventing harmful bills from passing, while helping others move forward.
- SAM continues to explore and innovate our professional learning opportunities to meet the needs of our members. With success, we piloted a zoom opportunity to deliver high interest professional learning related to employee wellness. The zoom was well attended and the recording of this webinar was reviewed by many that could not attend. This pilot provided good feedback for the SAM team as we continue to explore options to increase member engagement.

What is next?

As we all know, great organizations celebrate their successes, while at the same time look for new opportunities to improve their strategies. In the next 6 months we have some important issues to consider. Here are a few focus areas and goals for the work:

- With the support of the SAM Board, we will review and revise our SAM Strategic Plan. The last effort in this area was made in 2018. We will be using member feedback gained from our most recent needs assessment to clarify the strengths and areas of improvement for our organization.
- Using input from our current business partners and members, we will explore our current partnership plan and determine effectiveness, with the goal of growing our number of partners.
- With input from our members, we will explore alternative ways to deliver professional learning with the goal of creating a variety of “entry points” to increase member engagement.

As with anything new, some of the strategies may prove successful, while others will not. When thinking about making changes, we will always attempt to mitigate negative impacts. However, as you know, we can learn a lot from failure and those teachings can help create a stronger organization for all our members. Thanks for your participation and support in our path to continued success of our great organization!

Rob

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Professional Learning Opportunities?

Registration closes soon for the Public Education Day on the Hill, METAtchED, and the MASS Spring Conference.

Public Education Day on the Hill - March 13, 2023

- Public Education Day is Monday, March 13, and is a second opportunity for administrators, trustees, and school staff to travel to Helena to connect with legislators and advocate on behalf of Montana's public schools. This event is held in collaboration with our other education organization partners including MREA, MTSBA, MQEC, and MASBO.

MASS Spring Conference - March 14, 2023

- All MASS members are encouraged to attend the Public Education Day on the Hill followed by the MASS Spring Conference at the Delta Colonial in Helena. The conference provides time for MASS members to connect with colleagues, honor retirees, and conduct affiliate business.

METAtchED - March 13-14, 2023

- **The Future of EdTech:** All META members, as well as anyone interested in the future of education technology, are encouraged to attend this conference at the Delta Colonial in Helena. Visit the conference landing page for more information, review the **DRAFT Agenda**, and to register.

The **Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)** and its Montana state affiliate chapter, **Montana Educational Technologists Association (META)**, are pleased to continue to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations.

EmpowerED Superintendent edLeader Panel Broadcast Series

The EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel broadcast series – sponsored by ClassLink -- is now in its fifth season. Each monthly broadcast is co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net. Participants can earn continuing education (CE) credits after viewing the live or recorded broadcasts. To learn more about CE credits please visit this [webpage](#).

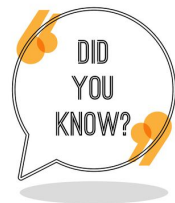
February 13 EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Broadcast:

The most recent broadcast of the CoSN / AASA EmpowerED Superintendent edLeader Panel Series, ***Addressing Technology's Diversity and Equity Through District Policies, Practices, and Personnel***, aired on Monday, February 13, 2023. In this edLeader Panel broadcast, Dr. Nick Polyak, Superintendent, Leyden High School District 212 (IL); Dr. Avis Williams, Superintendent, NOLA Public Schools (LA); Dr. Kristi Wilson, Superintendent, Buckeye Elementary School District (AZ); and Diane W. Doersch, Senior Director of Information Technology at Digital Promise and incoming chair of the CoSN Board, engaged in a discussion around how best to not only ensure equitable access and effective uses of technology for all the students and families in their school districts, but also how to promote diversity within district technology teams to better represent all the communities they serve. You are welcome to access the free EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Recording or Podcast version [HERE](#).

CoSN Driving K-12 Innovation Report

2023-24 SAM Membership Drive Launches April 6!

The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) Membership Drive will begin on Thursday, April 6 for the 2023-24 membership year! We will once again be using the online renewal process that we have used for the past several years. As the "key contact" for a district, district clerks/business managers will receive an email that will include information for completing membership renewals for their district's MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members. **Please work with your district clerk/business manager to be sure your membership is correct.** MCASE members and members not linked to a school district will receive an email that will include a link to their membership renewal form. We encourage you to renew your membership early so you can start the next fiscal year with the full benefits of your membership in place and without a chance of it lapsing. Contact the SAM Office with any questions you may have.



Did You Know...

...administrator vacancies are posted on the SAM website?

Do you have positions you would like posted? Follow this link to access the [Vacancy Posting Form](#). The position, district website, contact information, closing date and link to the online application are posted for each vacancy. Once a position is filled, please complete the [Administrator Positions Filled form](#) so the necessary updates can be made to the posting on the website. Visit the [Employment Opportunities page](#) on the SAM website to review current open positions.

CoSN recently released the 2023 Driving K-12 Innovation Report. The Driving K-12 Innovation Series is the process by which CoSN shares high quality trend reports regarding the use of emerging technologies to transform K-12 teaching and learning.

Through the Driving K-12 Initiative, a global advisory board of K-12 leaders, practitioners, and changemakers engage in discourse about the major themes driving, hindering, and enabling teaching and learning innovation in K-12 schools. The results of the advisory board's work is divided into three main categories: Hurdles, Accelerators and Enablers. To learn which specific items fell into each of the three main categories as well as how to access the full report please go [HERE](#). Plus, if you would like to be considered to be a part of the 2024 Driving K-12 Innovation Advisory Board, you will find a link to submit your notice of interest on that same web page.

CoSN 2023 Conference

CoSN's 2023 Annual Conference is taking place in Austin, Texas on March 20-23, 2023 (<https://www.cosn.org/cosn2023/>). The theme of this year's CoSN Conference is "Reimagine. Redesign. Renew." Multiple sessions for school leaders are included in the program, including panel presentation sessions by members of the CoSN/AASA EmpowerED Superintendents Advisory Panel. Hope to see you in Austin in March.

CoSN Membership:

If you, your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN, please contact membership@cosn.org.

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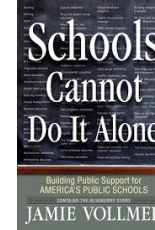


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2022-23 SAM Bulletins

- [February 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [January 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [December 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [November 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [October 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [September 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [July-August 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)

SAM Bulletins from Previous Years

Where have we been? Where are we going?

by Dr. Rob Watson, SAM Executive Director

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