

Notes from MCASE Board Meeting on September 16, 2018 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Hope Wilson, Shelley Dempsey, Michelle Halberg, Karen Underwood, Emilie Maul, Pam Pettigrew, Lisa Von Bergen

June minutes were approved.

Karen encouraged use of SAM website, particularly the Community Form option. She also discussed the importance of the membership drive for MCASE and informed us that Caitlyn is reaching out to individual districts and also attended the MASBO conference.

Budget: We are in a healthy place, but a little concerned that some co-ops and individual districts are not interested in membership due to financial constraints. OPI has a list of Co-ops and district Special Education Directors listed by region for ease of contacting administrators specifically. SAM office can also provide that information to us.

Conversation occurred regarding whether to continue collaborating with MASS and MCASE during their conferences in the fall and spring. Benefits include sharing expenses to bring in high cost speakers such as John Draper. Considerations for upcoming MCASE/CEC conferences include information for both general education and special education administrators on requirements of Special Education and 504. Tamra discussed that if a district files due process, district insurance will not pay the costs. If parent files due process the district insurance will absorb the cost. We talked about the importance of developing administrators' awareness monitoring fidelity to goals, least restrictive environment, data collection, and when to evaluate for Special Education vs/in addition to evaluation for 504.

Elsie Arntzen, Suzie Hedelin talked to the group about the change of title of the Special Education Division at OPI. It is now known as the Student Support Division. She expressed her priorities for the upcoming legislative session as follows.

- Early Learning
- Special Education funding – especially for co-ops
- School safety

Tamra discussed:

- Importance of talking with legislators prior to start of the session.
- Focus on talking with committee chairpersons as well.
- PLUK often sets up luncheons for legislators to allow us access to them.
- She feels we may have made some gains with Daines.
- Would like to see legislators support full funding for IDEA.
- Legislative agenda needs to be voted on at the MCEL Business Meeting.

Kirk:

- Reviewed MCASE membership prices
- Elsie's priorities

- Use of SAM website

Emilie Maule:

- Case Membership includes members to MCASE and CEC
- Montana was well represented in CASE Award nominations with two from Montana being in the top 3 candidates.
- She recommends we add a Gersch Award for excellent in the first five years of service as an administrator.

Lori Ruffier:

- Provided review of Recruitment Project
- Importance of growing our own professional and her conversations with administrators.
- Talked about openings throughout the state, fill rates, and continuing needs.

Other info:

Rocky Mountain College is now offer a Doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy.

Shelly discussed the need for assisting CEC in finding and helping to fund speakers for CEC conference.