

MASSP Region VI Meeting-Shawnda Zahara, Region VI Director

Email: [shawnda\\_zahara@laurel.k12.mt.us](mailto:shawnda_zahara@laurel.k12.mt.us)

February 11, 2021 12:30-1:30pm

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions: The SAM organization is celebrating its 50th Anniversary!  
9 members present: Shawnda Zahara, Laurel HS; Peter Hamilton, Skyview HS; Lucas Larson, Laurel MS; Justin Klebe, Laurel MS; Dan Grabowska, Park City HS; Rod Gottuba, Billings Public Schools; KJ Poepping, Shepard HS, Tim Zumbrum Absarokee HS; Gordon Klasna, Lockwood HS:
2. MT Principals Conference Discussion
  - a. Feedback on the conference from attendees.
    - i. "Even though it was virtual, I feel it went well."
    - ii. "There were good speakers throughout the event."
    - iii. "The virtual platform allowed my AP to attend with me, that was nice to be able to collaborate with him."
    - iv. "It would be nice to look at having in-person and virtual availability for next years conference."
    - v. "The speakers were high quality. The conference committee did a great job organizing the event."
  - b. Conference materials and recordings will be available to attendees until March 1st.
  - c. Press releases for all of the awards presented at the Montana Virtual Principals Conference Awards recognition have gone out to media all over the state.
  - d. Election Follow-up:
    - i. No nominations were submitted for the MASSP Vice President position. An appointment will take place at a later date.
    - ii. Public Schools Week (February 22-26) social media toolkit <https://learningfirst.org/social-media-toolkit> It is important that we tell the great story of the amazing things happening in Montana's public schools.
3. COVID-19 and current status
  - a. Discussion around challenges we are facing as administrators.
    - i. The group discussed on-going concerns. They are very similar across schools.
  - b. Positives that have come because of the pandemic.
    - i. Getting rid of lockers has decreased negative hallway behaviors considerably. Most schools that did this will continue the practice next year too.
    - ii. Lockwood has a Friday intervention day. They are looking to continue with the 3rd Friday of the month for next year as it has been a powerful intervention tool. Coaches are making it an "Athlete's Study Hall" as well.
    - iii. Most schools like the Zoom/Google Meet format for IEP/504 parent meetings. Most stated that it is very convenient for parents and they seem to have better participation from parents/guardians. It has also shortened the meeting time overall.
    - iv. Some schools have utilized the electronic signature format and will continue with that in the future.
    - v. The implementation of Google Classroom is a benefit to this school's teaching and they will continue using it going forward. It has cut down on missing work considerably.
    - vi. This school's PLC process has changed and improved greatly during this pandemic and they have found the new approach to be very beneficial.
  - c. Needs we might have related to the current situation.

- i. We discussed the impending new orders from the governor and how their schools will respond. Most said that is still to be determined but that they are looking for direction from their Board of Trustees in the coming days.
    - ii. We also discussed the practice of being Deputized for Contact Tracing and how we felt about that practice. Some districts did not deputize their administrators.
  - d. Directions for the future.
- 4. Legislative updates.
  - a. Link to SAM Testimony log for legislative advocacy.  
<http://saom.memberclicks.net/message2/link/c2bfa1c4-1191-4306-95ee-2fob24b06e27/2>
  - b. SAM Bills 2021 webpage:  
<http://saom.memberclicks.net/message2/link/c2bfa1c4-1191-4306-95ee-2fob24b06e27/5>
  - c. We talked about the need to participate in the SAM Legislative Network and specifically discussed a couple of bills that could significantly impact public schools in the future.
- 5. MASSP State Coordinator position: Please email **Justin Helvik, AP Bozeman HS, MASSP President if you are interested in this position.**
  - a. No one expressed interest in the position at this time.
  - b. If anyone is interested and needs information, please contact Shawnda and she will be happy to get the information to you or the person interested.
- 6. Retirements and Openings for the future:
  - a. Please share with the group needs you might have coming up for staffing.
    - i. Lockwood will have many openings as they expand their HS offerings:
      - 1. HS Assistant Principal
      - 2. Director of Alternative Education
      - 3. Industrial Arts
      - 4. Agriculture Education
      - 5. As well as several more
    - ii. No other schools shared any openings or help they might need.
- 7. SAM Youth Endowment: Deadline March 2
  - a. Peter Hamilton graciously explained the history of the Youth Endowment and encouraged everyone to nominate a youth.
  - b. If you need help finding the applications, email Shawnda and she will help you out.
- 8. Other Business or Discussions
  - a. Lockwood is looking for ideas for credit recovery.
    - i. Skyview has a school within a school concept that might be helpful
    - ii. Laurel is looking at Edgenuity and BPS currently uses Apex.
  - b. The question was posed as to who might be offering on-line learning next year.
    - i. Some schools are considering a pared down approach. Some schools will absolutely not be doing it as they do not have the staff or monetary resources for it. The cost to benefit ratio was not close to what they had expected.
- 9. Best day and time for Zoom meeting in March. **Tuesday March 9th @ 12:30 via Zoom**
- 10. Thank you for attending. Please let me know of others who should get invites but maybe did not on this round.

Shawnda Zahara-Harris, LHS Principal & MASSP Region VI Director:

email: shawnda\_zahara@laurel.k12.mt.us