

SAM Board of Directors

Executive Director Update

January 12, 2018

SAM Board Meeting



Some great effort has led to success on many fronts during 2nd Quarter 2017-18. The collective work of the SAM membership is making a difference for education in our state. Thanks for your leadership! Please contact me if you have questions about this update.

1. Review of Strategic Plan

- [Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 2nd Quarter 2017-18](#) is on the [SAM Strategic Plan](#) webpage for reference and review.

2. Review of Financials – will be a report of the SAM Investment/Finance Committee.

- [SAM Financial Report FY 16-17 and FY 17-18 as of 12-31-17](#) review will occur at the meeting.
- The SAM Investment/Finance Committee, met on January 12, 2018, reviewed all financial statements and investments. The fiscal stability of SAM remains a key success during 2nd Quarter.
- The process for filing 2016 taxes (990's for SAM and MASS) began in December and will culminate in April.
- Click [HERE](#) to review the current status of SAM's Business Partnerships.
- SAM is seeking support of the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program to make this program sustainable and reasonably priced for SAM member administrator's to join this personalized learning program. We are reaching out to the Gilhousen Foundation and the Washington Foundation, as well as private donors to support the work of the SAM LPLP going forward.

3. 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.
- 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.

4. Montana Unified Schools Trust ([MUST](#)) Update
 - SAM is represented on the MUST Board by Brad Moore (Vice President and Superintendent at Big Sandy), Eldon (Chad) Johnson (Superintendent at Twin Bridges), and new SAM appointee 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 Jeaneen Campbell is the Vice President of Operations.
 - [MUST/MSSF SAM Board Update December 2017](#).
5. Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) Update
 - An update of the status of MQEC can be provided at the meeting. Click [HERE](#) to go to the MQEC website.
 - 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.
6. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership Update
 - AKA – SAM members working together to literally have a seat at the table (input) on all efforts that affect 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, 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), [Montana Afterschool Alliance](#), [Montana Farm to School Leadership Team](#), [Broadband Access Initiatives](#), 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!
 - The [SAM Needs Assessment 2018](#) and [SAM Needs Assessment 2018 Executive Summary](#) reveals the continuing priorities of SAM members for professional learning and advocacy.
7. 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 \(LPLP\)](#) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators. Four years of developing this delivery system has led to over 69 administrators in the 2017-18 program working in [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 LPLP 2017-18 Mid Year Executive Summary](#) reveals the work accomplished thus far by the 69 members participating in this professional learning delivery system. Review the [SAM LPLP Historical Profit/Loss](#).

- [SAM Administrators Institute 2017](#), “Leadership of Transformational Change & Personalized Learning to Impact the Whole Child”, provided great learning opportunities for our entire membership. SAM AI 18 – theme is “Empowering Students - Focusing on Leadership of Personalized Learning, Social Emotional Learning, and Information Security”, scheduled for July 30-August 1, 2018 in Helena!
- [MCEL 2017](#) (October 18-20, 2017) was a success as rated by the attendees. The venue was moved to downtown Billings at the Northern Hotel and Double Tree Hotel. Innovative technology and general session speakers motivated our Montana education leaders as indicated in the MCEL Evaluation! MCEL 2018 will be in Missoula with a recommendation 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.
- The [SAM website](#), a one-stop repository for member resources, has been fully upgraded.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 12 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ ‘[Conferences](#)’ tab on the website. MASSP and MAEMSP have scheduled a joint Montana Principals Conference scheduled for April 4-6, 2018!
- SAM implemented new association management software, upgrading website and tools for members. See the SAM Office Update to review the new tools being implemented.
- 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 Committees to enhance member communication, many more...
- [SAM Membership Report 2nd Quarter 2017-18](#) shows the collective membership at 1032 eclipsing the record membership set last year. The report analysis is very promising considering the challenges faced by school budgets and competing interests for membership.
- 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.
- Request continued support of SAM Board Members to allow for central office personnel, principals, special education directors, and technologists to become members of their SAM affiliate and promote participation in professional learning opportunities through SAM.

8. 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](#)). Delegate Assembly met on June 15-16, 2017 creating recommendations for [SAM’s Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions](#).
- Advocacy for our schools and the education of our students will continue to be a high priority in 2018. A click on the [Advocacy](#) tab on the SAM webpage is intended to provide you with concise

information on advocacy efforts by SAM members at the local, state and federal level. [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#) reveals the recent actions of the [Special Session](#) in November and [SAM's Advocacy Priorities](#) for the coming year.

- It seems actions of the Federal Government are having a greater impact on Montana education and you can check out the latest details on the [Federal Issues followed by SAM](#) link. The SAM Federal Advocacy Team (SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee members and Affiliate Federal Relations Coordinators) have established a SAM Federal Advocacy Community Forum in order to communicate effectively and make decisions on positions to be taken on federal issues.

9. Contemporary Issues of Today

- [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#)
- [2017 Special Legislative Session](#)
- Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update](#)
 - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
- [Montana ESSA Plan](#)
- [Federal Issues 2017-18](#) – Information about federal tax reform
- Student Mental Health Issues, Emergency Planning, and [Suicide Prevention](#)
- Montana Information Security Project and OCR ADA Website Compliance
- [Montana School Broadband Project](#)
- [SAM LPLP 2017-18](#) and [SAM LPLP 2017-18 Mid Year Executive Summary](#) and [SAM LPLP Historical Profit/Loss](#)
- [GREAT V](#) – Zogby Survey results outlining the Great Work of Montana's Public Schools
- [MASS Spring Conference 2018](#) and [METAtchED Spring Conference 2018](#) – March 19-21 in Helena
- [Montana Principals Conference 2018](#) – April 4-6 at Fairmont – Joint effort of MASSP and MAEMSP
- [SAM Youth Endowment](#)
- [SAM Needs Assessment 2018](#) and [SAM Needs Assessment 2018 Executive Summary](#)

Contact me if you have questions or comments about this report or any other SAM related item. Thanks for serving on the SAM Board of Directors!

Respectfully submitted,



SAM Executive Director