

SAM Board of Directors

Executive Director Update

October 19, 2017

SAM Board Meeting



SAM efforts to be actively involved in the 1st quarter of 2017-18 has led to accomplishment of goals and increased services for SAM members! We continue to make significant progress guided by the SAM Strategic Plan. Thanks for your leadership of SAM. Please contact me if you have questions about this update.

1. Review of Strategic Plan

- [Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 1st 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 9-30-17](#) review will occur at the meeting.
- The SAM Investment/Finance Committee, met on October 12, 2017, reviewed all financial statements. The Committee is making a recommendation to the SAM Board to consider [reinstating a voluntary tax sheltered 403\(b\) plan for SAM](#).
- Taxes for 2015 have been filed with the IRS – [SAM 990](#) and [MASS 990EZ](#) – are on the [SAM Governing Documents](#) webpage. The process for 2016 taxes will begin in December.
- 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.

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 is implementing 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.
- 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.
- Further update on the status of MUST can be provided at the meeting.

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!

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 65 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 Administrators Institute 2017](#), "Leadership of Transformational Change & Personalized Learning to Impact the Whole Child", provided great learning opportunities for our entire membership.
 - Plans are complete to renew and develop an outstanding [MCEL 2017](#) (October 18-20, 2017). The venue is moved to downtown Billings at the Northern Hotel and Double Tree Hotel. Innovative technology and general session speakers will invigorate and motivate our Montana education leaders!
 - [#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.
- 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 2017-18 1st Quarter](#) is 934, about 26 less than 1st Quarter 2016-17, but memberships come in every day and SAM is targeting 1020 (2016-17 record) for total membership. The membership drive for 2017-18 began on April 3, 2017 using the power of the new MemberClicks association management software.
- META has successfully developed a national affiliation with the Consortium of School Networks (CoSN). A Montana CoSN State Chapter has been formed, presided over by a META CoSN Council (made up of the META Board) with META regions as the structure for the Chapter. 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.
- [Federal Advocacy](#) efforts and relationships with the Montana Congressional Delegation are important.

9. Contemporary Issues of Today

- State Revenue Shortfall and the Impact on Montana Schools – SAM [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#)
- [SAM Delegate Assembly 2017 Business Meeting Recommendations \(no mark up\) 10-19-17](#)
- Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update](#)
 - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
- Montana [ESSA Implementation](#) and [ESSA Montana Plan 2017 School Administrators - Leadership and Support for your District](#) guidance.
- 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](#)

- [MCEL 2017](#) – Release of GREAT Montana Schools – Zogby Survey
- [Montana Principals Conference 2018](#) – April 4-6 at Fairmont – Joint effort of MASSP and MAEMSP
- [SAM Youth Endowment](#)

Thanks for your leadership by serving on the SAM Board of Directors. Your commitment to serve your profession through SAM is creating stronger schools and opportunities for our children in Montana!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirk D. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

SAM Executive Director