



SAM Board of Directors

Executive Director Update

April 6, 2018

SAM Executive Board Meeting

Greetings SAM Board members! The 2017-18 school year, though passing quickly, shows great progress of our association in support of our Core Ideology and Envisioned Future. Here is an update of SAM activities for your review. Please contact me if you have questions.

1. Review of Strategic Plan
 - The [SAM Strategic Plan 2014-18](#) webpage is the location of the [Executive Director's SAM Strategic Plan Report 3rd Quarter 2017-18](#).
 - The SAM Board will be working to update the SAM Strategic Plan at Board meetings in April and June.
2. Review of Financials
 - [SAM Financial Report FY 16-17 and FY 2017-18 as of 3-31-18 with Proposed Budget FY 2018-19](#) discussion will take place at the Board meeting.
3. Contemporary Issues for Discussion
 - [MT-PEC Project Safe Schools](#), Student Mental Health Issues, [OPI Emergency Responses For...](#), [SAM Resources on Managing School Walkouts-Protests](#), and [Suicide Prevention](#)
 - [Montana Principals Conference 2018](#) – April 4-6 at Fairmont – Joint effort of MASSP and MAEMSP
 - [SAM Membership Drive 2018-19](#) began on April 3, 2018
 - [SAM LPLP 2018-19](#)
 - [SAM Administrators Institute 2018](#)
 - [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#)
 - [Call for Positions and Resolutions for Delegate Assembly 2018](#)
 - Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update](#) and [Report to the EDIC on 1-22-18](#)
 - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
 - REL NW Survey Plans
 - [Montana ESSA Plan](#)
 - [Federal Issues 2017-18](#) – Information about federal tax reform
 - Montana Information Security Project – [SAM LPLP TLE CLN](#)
 - [META Website Accessibility Project](#) - 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](#)
 - [MASS Spring Conference 2018](#) and [METAtchED Spring Conference 2018](#) – March 19-21 in Helena
 - [GREAT V](#) – Zogby Survey results outlining the Great Work of Montana's Public Schools
 - [SAM Youth Endowment](#)

4. 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 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.

5. 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.
- The 2018-19 membership drive and rates development began on the week of March 26, 2018.

6. 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. The Montana Supreme Court is hearing the [Espinoza et al. v. Montana Department of Revenue](#) case on April 6, 2018 in Missoula.

7. 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](#) and recently developed [SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2018](#) reveals the continuing priorities of SAM members for professional learning and advocacy.
8. 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, with 4 outstanding keynotes and many clinic sessions!
 - 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 2017-18 3rd Quarter as of 3-31-18](#) shows the collective membership at 1057 eclipsing the record membership set last year. Every affiliate has greater membership than the previous year. The [SAM Membership Drive 2018-19](#) began on April 3, 2018.

9. 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. MT-PEC, at the request of SAM, is considering working together to develop Governance Training for school teams (board member, superintendent, building administrator, business official, and teacher leader) to enhance school district's ability to understand the roles and responsibilities of the governance team and to learn about strategic planning.
- 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](#)). In October 2017 the SAM membership approved recommendations for [SAM's Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions](#). [Call for Positions and Resolutions for Delegate Assembly 2018](#) are to be submitted by April 27, 2018.
- 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.

Thank you SAM Board for your leadership of our association and for your contributions to our profession through your service on the board!

Respectfully submitted,



SAM Executive Director