

SAM Board Virtual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

9:00 – 11:30 am



In attendance: Dale Olinger, Peter Hamilton, Cal Ketchum, Jake Haynes, Casey Klasna, Mike Perry, Rick Duncan, Shelley Andres, Craig Crawford, Barb Droessler, Cathy Maloney, Michelle Halberg, Shawn Hendrickson, KJ Poepping, Ted Miller, Nicole Trahan, Everett Holm, Gary Wagner, Kim Scofield

Not in attendance: Justin Helvik, Greg Dern

Presiding, President Dale Olinger

President Olinger called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Agenda

1. Introductions

Dale entertained introductions.

2. Deletions/Additions to Agenda

None noted.

3. Approval of Minutes

1. [SAM Board Virtual Meeting DRAFT Minutes 10-14-20](#)

Shelley Andres made a motion to approve the minutes; Cal Ketchum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mega Issue Discussion

1. The Impact of Advocacy in the 2021 Legislative Session and Professional Learning Needs for the Future

Dale introduced the mega issue stating that it is important to have the ability to adjust to the changes that are inevitably coming in the near future.

Michelle stated that she feels educators have lost their momentum for checking in with students and monitoring SEL. She would like to see this as a priority moving forward. Cal stated that it is important to consider SEL and trauma for students and staff. He is also concerned about measuring the learning loss.

Barb mentioned the impact the pandemic will have on recruiting and retaining staff. Casey stated that he is also concerned with recruiting staff especially with the unemployment benefits people receive while not working. Shelley added that she is concerned about finding substitutes especially as teachers are requesting to work remotely.

Jake added that he is concerned with self care of staff and administrators because he is seeing the burn-out rate accelerate.

Shelley is concerned with the lack of broadband access for some students.

Nikki stated that she is finding that many students are wanting to return to on-site learning but the learning gap has expanded between the students who have remained on-site or have successfully learned remotely and the many students who were not successful learning remotely. Barb is concerned about the request of families wanting to continue remote learning and the need to develop best practices for remote learning. Cathy would like to see the expansion of the Montana Digital Academy to include standards-based curriculum for remote learners in order to relieve some of the burdens from classroom teachers.

Dale stated that schools will be provided with an influx of COVID relief funds. He believes these funds need to be used wisely and the public perception of how these funds are spent needs to be positive. Cal stated that it will be important to be strategic when describing the disbursement of funds to community members.

Barb stated that she worries that the current situation is fueling the charter school platform.

Cathy stated that we need a strong liaison between MT public schools and the Governor.

Craig stated that it will be important to take a realistic look at how the pandemic has affected the education of our children and what the learning goals will be moving forward. He believes the next year or so will need to focus on filling the education gaps. He is encouraged by how the education delivery methods have changed. He would like to be sure to encourage families, acknowledge the stresses on them, and thank them for how hard they are working.

Mike is concerned about the added demands that administrators will face moving forward. SAM will need to focus on the support of administrators to meet the demands their community will put on them.

Shawn stated that SAM could set an example for reopening organizations, an example for getting back to normal. He thinks that administrators need guidance for how to meet face to face safely in order to collaborate.

Cal described the value of the weekly NW MASS meetings and how productive these meetings have been even being held remotely. Cathy agreed stating that county superintendents have been meeting remotely on a monthly basis and these meetings have been extremely beneficial.

Dale stated that action taken during the current legislative session could potentially create several issues for school districts including collective bargaining and unions.

An overview of the discussion can also be found in the [SAM Board Mega Issue Discussion Notes 1-20-21.pdf](#) document.

4. Old Business

1. [SAM Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#) Review - [Executive Director Strategic Plan 2018-22 Report 2nd Qtr 2020-21 1-20-21](#)

Kirk reviewed the format of the strategic plan report stating that 2nd quarter updates have been added in green font. The report focuses on the three goals of the SAM Strategic Plan. He highlighted the following:

- Preparing for the 2021 legislative session and the continued resource development during the pandemic has required increased communication with all entities and partners associated with SAM.
- [SAM COVID-19 Information for Schools](#) resources are continuously updated on the SAM website
- All SAM and affiliates communications point to the goals of the SAM Strategic Plan
- SAM secured a Paycheck Protection Program loan that was forgiven with COVID relief funds

- [SAM Advocacy Priorities 2021](#)
- MT-PEC meets weekly to discuss the legislative landscape.
- SAMLN21 Legislative Updates and Podcasts
 - SAMLN21 Lunch and Legislate web meetings are held each Monday from 12:00-12:30 PM. Shelley encouraged members to attend this weekly meeting.
- Professional Learning:
 - LPLP Huddle: a monthly professional learning web meeting for SAM LPLP members
- Other reports included in the Strategic Plan report will be reviewed later in the meeting agenda.

2. [Montana District/School Leadership Staffing Report 2020-21](#)

Kirk reviewed the report pointing out that each Montana administrator supervises an average of 26.7 licensed professional and paraprofessional staff K-12 staff. Dale recommended possibly adding “agriculture” as a comparative to future reports.

3. [SAM LPLP Mid-Year Executive Summary 2020-21](#)

Kirk reviewed the summary stating that the SAM LPLP participants have access to and are receiving personalized professional learning to meet the needs that this board discussed in the mega issue discussed earlier in the meeting. Kirk described how the SAM LPLP data collection helps fuel future professional development planning.

5. New Business

1. Consideration of [SAM Needs Assessment 2021 Executive Summary](#) and [SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2021](#) [Action]

Kirk reviewed the SAM Needs Assessment 2021 Executive Summary focusing on the following

- It is recommended that SAM’s professional learning delivery should include a hybrid model moving forward
- The trends for professional learning need to mirror those from the SAM LPLP data collection report and set the tone for SAM’s focus for professional learning needs moving forward.
- Continued effort to focus on special education funding and early childhood education funding were indicated as the top advocacy priorities.

Cathy Maloney made a motion to accept the recommendations as presented; Michelle Halberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of Draft [2020-21 SAM Administrative Vacancy Report Executive Summary](#)

Kirk reviewed the 2020-21 SAM Administrative Vacancy Report Executive Summary stating the importance of this information as it affects the recruitment and retention of Montana administrators.

3. Consideration of SAM Business Partnership with Reach Higher Montana ([Request](#), [Info](#))

Kirk reviewed the business partner request.

Cathy Maloney made a motion to accept the business partner request from Reach Higher Montana; Shelley Andres seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

6. President's Report – Dale Olinger

Dale thanked board members for their participation in the mega issue discussion and today's meeting. The discussion will help guide SAM in serving all members.

7. Executive Director's Report – Kirk Miller

1. [Executive Director Update 1-20-21](#)

Kirk stated that much of the report was discussed earlier in the meeting. He invited board members to review the Executive Director Update 1-20-21 document.

8. SAM Financial Report - SAM Investment/Finance Committee

1. [SAM Financial Report FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 2nd Quarter](#)

Dale reported that the SAM Investment/Finance committee met prior to this meeting stating that SAM's financial status is healthy. Kirk reviewed the financial report.

2. Review Affiliate Financial Reports – [MASS](#), [MAEMSP](#), [MASSP](#), [MCASE](#), [META](#)
3. [Review Investment Committee Balance Report 2nd Quarter](#)
4. Review of SAM Business Sponsors 2020-21 – [webpage](#), [Business Partners 2020-21](#)

Dale and Kirk encouraged board members to review the list of SAM business sponsors, consider supporting these entities, and encourage your affiliate board members to do the same. Dale also encouraged board members to refer vendors they have a relationship with to contact the SAM office to learn more about a SAM business partnership.

9. [Membership Report](#) – Kirk Miller

Dale asked how many individuals are included in the 1093 SAM members. Gary reported that there are 40-50 members of more than one affiliate, so there are approximately 1050 individual SAM members.

10. Affiliate Reports – Affiliate Presidents

The following reports were copied primarily from comments left in the chat box due to time constraints.

MCASE: Michelle reported that MCASE planning an MCASE/MCEC joint conference for awards and celebration of students is slated for April 15th via a video conference. Awards will include Special Ed Director, Special Ed Teacher, General Ed teacher, Lori Ruffier Legacy award/Recruitment and the "Yes, I Can" award from MCASE and more from MCEC and CSPD!

MACSS: Cathy reported that the MACSS Annual business meeting is scheduled for Feb 9, at 1:00 via Zoom.

MASS: Casey reported that MASS is planning their Spring Conference for March 23rd. There will also be a 2-3 hour session with MT-PEC at the virtual Day of Advocacy on March 22nd. Casey has spent time visiting with the nine MASS regional presidents and promoting SAM advocacy and resources.

MAEMSP: Shelley reported that the winter conference is starting Monday! She asked board members to encourage their colleagues to register if they haven't. There is a star-packed line up of speakers —Tim Kanold, Adolph Brown, Ricky Ramirez, Beth Houf.

MASSP: Shawn reported that as of this morning 202 participants have registered for the Montana Principal's Conference on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Our goal is 250+. He asked everyone to make a push to their local administrators if they're not registered. There is a tremendous line up of speaker! Probably the best speakers ever! Beth Houf, Ricky Ramirez, Tim Kanold, Gerry Nolan, Dr. Adolph Brown, awards, giveaways, you name it. Let's make it happen kids!

11. Advocacy Report – Rick Duncan (DA Steering Committee Chair) & Kirk Miller

1. [2021 Legislative Session](#) Update

Much of the advocacy report was reviewed during the SAM Strategic Plan report. Kirk encouraged members to participate in the SAMLN21 and the Lunch & Legislate 30-minute Zoom meeting scheduled each Monday at noon. Kirk reviewed the advocacy resources (schedule, updates, podcasts, bill reports) available on the SAM website. He explained the strategy for categorizing the SAM followed bills by priority. Kirk stated that SAM is ready to mobilize SAM's advocacy efforts on bills that require administrators to contact legislators.

Rick added that the schedule is extremely fluid. He encouraged board members to refer to the update to see the changes that have been made to the schedule. He stated that SAM gave 17 testimonies in seven committees last week.

Kirk stated that every testimony that SAM provides is based on the positions and resolutions developed by the SAM Delegate Assembly.

2. [Federal Advocacy Update](#) – *Affiliate Federal Relations Coordinators*

Kirk reported the ESSER II funds information and encouraged board members to review the items listed on the Federal Advocacy webpage on the SAM website.

12. Future Meeting Dates

[SAM 2020-21 Schedule of Conferences and Board Meetings](#) and [SAM Web Calendar](#)

Dale stated that the next meeting is scheduled for March 23rd with the Executive Board meeting on March 15th.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Scofield
Director of Member Services and Professional Learning