

# SAM Board Virtual Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am



Dale Olinger called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

## Agenda

In attendance: Dale Olinger, Casey Klasna, Mike Perry, Greg Dern, Rick Duncan, Craig Crawford, Shelley Andres, Barb Droessler, Cathy Maloney, Michelle Halberg, Shawn Hendrickson, KJ Poepping, Greg Dern, Ted Miller, Nicole Trahan, Marlin Lewis, Everett Holm, Gary Wagner, Kim Scofield

Not in attendance: Justin Helvik, Peter Hamilton, Cal Ketchum, Jake Haynes

### 1. Introductions

Dale entertained introductions.

### 2. Deletions/Additions to Agenda

None noted.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

1. [SAM Board Virtual Meeting DRAFT Minutes 6-11-20](#)

Michelle Halberg made a motion to approve the minutes; Craig Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Mega Issue Discussion

1. [SAM supports for schools during pandemic. SAM COVID-19 Information for Schools](#)

Dale introduced the mega issue and invited board members to review the resources on the SAM website. Kirk stated that the resources have been put together from the lens of an administrator. When asked how to be notified of Governor Bullock's press conferences, Kirk suggested that board members contact their county health officials since the topic of the recent press conferences are health related. Rick stated that searching Montana breaking news online typically provides press conference notifications. [Kirk later contacted the Governor's office and has been placed to the notice list for future COVID-19 Update Press calls, and he will notify all SAM members as soon as the notice is received]. Michelle stated that online learning does not seem to be an effective mode of learning for special education students. She asked board members if they have suggestions for best practices for accommodating special education students. Everett stated that the Browning Board of Trustees agreed to allow special education students to be onsite once a week even though the rest of the district is distant learning.

Mike stated that one of his main concerns is submitting data to TEAMS correctly to ensure that the instructional hours are reported properly so districts will not lose funding. Dale agreed stating that he is also concerned but hopes that districts adopting the appropriate policies will protect funding. Cathy stated that if a district adopted the 1900 policies that they should be in compliance and are acting in good faith. Michelle stated her concern in the increase of homeschool students in combination with the increase in out of state students and what this means to funding next year. Cathy stated that there has been a significant increase in homeschool students across the state. Kirk stated that through this mega issue conversation, the following advocacy issues have surfaced: Press call notices, special

education remote access aligned with general education standards, the impact of TEAMS reporting on funding, an increase in home and private school enrollment and budget concerns. Kirk intends to forward these specific requests to the MT-PEC partners sponsoring MCEL and will request that all of these items be addressed at MCEL on October 16 during the 'Partners of MCEL: Lessons Learned, Future Focused' clinic session at 1:00 pm. [These items were addressed by the MCEL partners at the clinic session on October 16].

#### 4. Old Business

1. [SAM Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Review](#) - [Executive Director Strategic Plan 2018-22 Report 1st Qtr 2020-21 10-14-20](#)

Kirk reviewed the strategic plan and the structure of the strategic plan report. He outlined briefly several of the actions on strategic objectives accomplished under each of the three goal areas. He reviewed the steps, with SAM at the forefront, that led to \$75 million being allocated to Montana schools for COVID relief through the Governors Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). Dale expressed his appreciation for SAM and the fact that it is the go-to organization for all education entities in the state.

2. [SAM Annual Business Meeting Agenda 10-14-20](#) Review

Dale reviewed the agenda stating that the Delegate Assembly recommendations will be voted on by the SAM membership at the business meeting.

3. SAM Virtual AI 2020 Review – [SAM VAI 2020 Evaluation as of 10-8-20](#) and [SAM VAI 2020 Evaluation as of 10-8-20 Session Evaluations](#) and [SAM AI Financial Report](#)

Kirk reviewed the draft evaluations that will be finalized after October 31st when access to the conference resources is closed. Kirk reviewed the financial report indicating that the report for this virtual conference is similar to the even numbered years for face-to-face SAM AI's.

4. SAM LPLP Update – [SAM LPLP 2019-20 Executive Summary](#), [SAM LPLP 2020-21 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Data Collection](#), [SAM LPLP 2020-21 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Provider Reflection Report](#), [LPLP Financial Report](#)

Kirk reviewed the SAM LPLP materials, reviewing the research questions being followed. He reviewed the data collection report which is a glimpse at what administrators across the state are working on and the issues they are dealing with. Kirk also reviewed the LPLP financial report.

#### 5. New Business

1. Consideration of SAM Advocacy/Lobbyist for 2021 Legislative Session - [Agreement](#) [Action]

Casey Klasna made a motion to approve the independent contractor agreement to provide advocacy/lobbyist services during the 2021 legislative session; Shelley Andres seconded the motion.

Mike asked why the agreement is dated as of January 4, 2021. Kirk stated that the agreement encompasses the dates of the 2021 Legislative Session.

The motion passed unanimously. (Rick Duncan recused himself from voting.)

#### Reports

##### 6. President's Report – Dale Olinger

Dale thanked everyone for everything they are doing each day for the education of the children in their communities.

**7. Executive Director's Report – Kirk Miller**

1. [Executive Director Update 10-14-20](#)

Kirk invited members to review the items in the report that had not previously been discussed during the meeting.

**8. SAM Financial Report - SAM Investment/Finance Committee**

1. [SAM Financial Report FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter](#)
2. Review Affiliate Financial Reports – [MASS](#), [MAEMSP](#), [MASSP](#), [MCASE](#), [META](#)
3. [Review Investment Committee Balance Report 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter](#)
4. Review of SAM Business Sponsors 2020-21 – [webpage](#), [Business Partners 2020-21](#)

Dale stated that the reports were reviewed during the SAM Investment/Finance Committee meeting. He reported that SAM and the affiliates are healthy financially. Kirk reviewed the SAM Financial Report and the Investment Committee Balance Report 1st Quarter. Dale reviewed the list of SAM Business Partners 2020-21. He stated that SAM is a vehicle for each partner to get their name/product in front of SAM members. He encouraged board members to direct vendors they work with to the SAM office to find out about becoming a SAM Business Partner.

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

Kirk reviewed the membership report indicating that the membership drive is keeping pace with the record SAM membership in 2019-20. He stated that the affiliate membership google sheets have been posted on each affiliate board meeting webpage. These membership lists assist affiliate region directors in contacting potential members. He thanked the SAM leadership for their great work for membership development citing that all of the resources of having a seat at the table, advocacy and professional learning and services begin with a strong SAM membership.

**10. Affiliate Reports – Affiliate Presidents**

MACSS: Cathy reported that MACSS members meet biweekly. They recently recognized the County Superintendent of the Year, the Rural Teacher of the Year, and the Montana Teacher of the Year. She stated that the affiliate members are thankful for the resources SAM provides for and with them.

MCASE: Michelle reported that MCASE members are meeting weekly with the OPI Special Education Division through administrator calls. She thanked Casey and the SAM office for helping to create a successful MASS/MCASE Fall Conference. Michelle stated that MCASE awards, including the new Lori Ruffier Legacy Award, will be opening soon. She encouraged Board members to nominate deserving candidates. Lastly, Michelle asked Board members to forward names of MCASE members retiring to her.

META: Everett reported that many conversations have been taking place between META members across the state about how to provide effective distance learning. Student Data Privacy and the implementation of HB 745 is also an ongoing project, as is the META Cybersecurity project.

MASSP: Shawn, MASSP President Elect, reported that MASSP regions have been meeting remotely with greater attendance than in the past. He stated that MASSP President, Justin Helvik, has been working with MAEMSP leadership to plan the virtual conference in January. He reported that the Principal of the Year process has changed. Each region will nominate a candidate to be considered for the award. The Assistant Principal of the Year will be announced soon. Lastly, Shawn reported that an MASSP priority this year is honoring retirees.

MAEMSP: Shelley reported that October is National Principals Month and MAEMSP has highlighted a principal each day on the MAEMSP Facebook page. She asked for board members to send information about their principals to her. Shelley encouraged members to attend or encourage their principals to attend the Montana Principals Conference in January. She also asked board members to nominate deserving candidates for the upcoming MAEMSP awards.

MASS: Casey reported that MASS continues to hold monthly leadership meetings and each of the nine MASS regions holds regular meetings. He stated that the Montana Superintendent of the Year and MASS Honor School Boards will be announced later today and the AASA National Conference on Education Incentive Award deadline is December 1st. Lastly, Casey reported that the MASS Spring Conference will be scheduled around the Day of Advocacy.

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

1. [SAM Delegate Assembly - recommendations](#) for SAM Business Meeting on 10-14-20

Rick reported that the SAM Delegate Assembly was held in July and the recommendations, that include 41 position statements and 44 resolutions, will be voted on by the SAM membership at the business meeting later today. He reviewed the five SAM Advocacy Priorities.

2. Legislative Interim Advocacy – [Committees, SAM 2021 Interim Advocacy Report](#)

Rick reported that SAM has been actively engaged in the work of the interim committees. He stated that he believes there will be preschool legislation and a No Kid Hungry bill presented during the upcoming legislative session. He also mentioned the work SAM members did on HB 657 (PD 0001) that focuses on special education and coop funding. Other issues worked on during the interim include e-rate/broadband and establishing graduation requirements for students who have experienced certain adversities. Rick stated that the legislative session begins on January 4, 2021.

3. SAM Legislative Network 2021 (SAMLN21) – [Description](#) & [Forming the SAMLN21](#) & [2019 Info](#)

Rick stated that information will be sent to the SAM membership soon concerning the SAM Legislative Network 2021.

4. [2021 Legislative Session](#) ([2019 Legislative Session](#) SAM Example)
5. [Federal Advocacy Update](#) – *Affiliate Federal Relations Coordinators*

## **12. Future Meeting Dates**

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

Kirk encouraged board members to refer to the SAM Calendar on the website to see all events scheduled for each SAM affiliate and SAM LPLP.

## **13. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

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