

SAM Board Virtual Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

2:00 – 4:00 pm

SAM [Zoom 2](#)



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

Not in attendance: Peter Hamilton, Justin Helvik, Ted Miller

Presiding, President Dale Olinger

President Olinger called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM

Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Deletions/Additions to Agenda

None noted. The President's Report will be given before "Old Business".

3. Approval of Minutes

1. [SAM Board Virtual Meeting DRAFT Minutes 1-20-21](#)

Casey Klasna made a motion to approve the minutes; Craig Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. [SAM Executive Board Virtual Meeting DRAFT Minutes 3-15-21](#)

Cal Ketchum made a motion to approve the minutes; Cathy Maloney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mega Issue Discussion

1. [COVID-19 Information for Schools](#) and [2021 Legislative Session](#)

Dale introduced the mega issue discussion stating that since the last board discussion in January, more clarity has been provided about funding for issues such as addressing learning recovery. However, it may be difficult for administrators to decide the most effective way to allocate the funds. Michelle stated that the current integrated systems of MTSS and RTI have and will continue to be useful. She feels that supplementing education will be more difficult to specify. She worries most about the social emotional well-being of students and it will be important to realize that school closures could have a long-term impact on students. Credit recovery is also a worry for administrators.

Craig asked about the status of CSCT funding for districts. Kirk stated that an amendment was made to HB 2 that cut the funds intended for bridge money to help with the Medicaid funding match for CSCT programs. Kirk stated that he believes there may be other avenues for funding such as American Recovery Rescue Plan Act, funds that will be going to DPHHS and

organizations that provide mental health support services to school districts. Kirk stated that HB 630 and HB 632 include ESSER II and ESSER III funds and MT-PEC has made recommendations to the OPI for how those funds should be allocated. Dale stated that he believes his school board would use ESSER funds to bridge the gap in funding if necessary due to the importance of the CSCT issue. His district would negotiate a temporary contract with the provider until the funding stream would be made available.

Cathy asked that the necessity of vaccinations for recently retired teachers and their spouses is communicated to the Governor's office since they volunteer in districts across the state. Kirk stated that anyone associated with school staff (volunteers, etc) is eligible to receive vaccines due to President Biden's Directive issues on March 4th.

Cal stated that some local health departments have lifted mask mandates, however, his local health department stated that the mask mandate will not be lifted in the county until there are no COVID cases for four weeks. Everett relayed a similar message. Dale reported that the mask mandate seems to be the last mandate to be lifted after group sizes, etc. He stated that as an administrator he received push-back on both sides of the mask mandate. Rick stated that he was threatened with lawsuits when the mask mandate was implemented and again when the mask mandate was lifted. He stated that masks are not an issue with students. Cathy commented that the mask mandate has cut down on the flu. Dale invited board members to review the new CDC guidelines that state the distance of three feet may be effective as are masks as well as other important information.

Rick invited board members to attend the SAM Lunch and Legislate call each Monday at noon. SAM is currently following 363 bills. There have been several successes so far: HB 15 (Implement K-12 Inflation), HB 46 (Inflationary adjustments and develop policy for special education funding). The designation of each followed bill is based on the SAM Advocacy Priorities. He thanked those who have participated in the calls to action as they are powerful and have made a difference. He reported that the local authority of elected Trustees and the Board of Public Education have been under attack during this legislative session. Rick stated that he is most concerned about the following bills and the impact they would have on public education: HB 279 (Increase tuition tax credit from \$150 to \$200,000), HB 329 (Provide ANB payment without requiring accountability to parents of students with disabilities), SB 99 (Establish parameters for K-12 human sexuality education). Kirk stated that a weekly legislative update and podcast is available to SAM members each Friday. All resources are available on the SAM website. It may be necessary to implement several additional calls to action before the session ends.

Dale thanked Kirk and Rick for the work they are doing each to provide resources to the SAM membership and for advocating for public education,

President's Report:

Dale reviewed the stellar results of the Executive Director Evaluation as well as the evaluations of the SAM Office staff. Dale thanked Kirk, Gary, and Kim for their efforts over the past year. He stated that Kirk's contract will be a one-year contract. All proposed contracts include a 3% increase. Dale reported that the Executive Board is also recommending a one-time payment of \$1500 to Kirk, Gary, and Kim as compensation for additional duties taken on during the COVID Pandemic. Cal stated that SAM applied for and received a PPP grant that will also assist with the payroll expense increase.

4. Old Business

1. [Compensation for SAM Staff - COVID Pandemic Additional Duties 2020-21](#) [Action]

Dale explained the addendum recommending a one-time payment of \$1500 to the entire SAM office staff, not to only Kim and Gary as Kirk had recommended.

Shelley Andres made a motion to approve the compensation; Cathy Maloney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of [Executive Director Contract](#) Terms and Conditions [Action]

Dale stated that because Kirk's contract is a one-year contract, the SAM Board is going to need to formulate a transition plan over the next 6-8 months.

Marlin Lewis made a motion to approve the Executive Director contract; Michelle Halberg seconded the motion.

Discussion: Cal suggested the possibility of a contract with Kirk to assist the new Executive Director once hired.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of [SAM Staffing and Compensation for 2021-22](#) [Action]

[Shelley Andres](#) made a motion to approve the SAM Staffing and Compensation; Casey Klasna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kirk thanked the board for the approval of his contract and the staff compensation. He will work diligently to ensure SAM remains as strong as it is today.

4. SAM LPLP 2021-22 ([SAM LPLP Profit/Loss History w Proposed Budget FY 21](#)) [Discussion]

Kirk reviewed the SAM LPLP document stating that SAM LPLP began as a program to provide personalized professional learning to administrators. He stated that through SAM LPLP, we are gathering data around whether administrators participating in the program experience and increase in job satisfaction and longevity. SAM LPLP implements transformational learning strategies with administrators participating in the program who will, in turn, be more likely to implement such strategies in their districts.

Dale commented that because of the success of LPLP, the program will need to continue to be adjusted over time to keep it relevant. Michelle added that she believes SAM LPLP is helping with recruitment and retention in Montana.

Dale stated that other states have contacted SAM to learn how to emulate the same type of program in their states.

5. SAM Administrators Institute 2021 ([SAM AI Profit/Loss History](#)) [Discussion]

Kirk reviewed the financial document. The intention is to offer a blended model for SAM AI 21 - both in-person and virtual options.

6. SAM 50th Anniversary Celebration ([Celebrating 50 Years](#) - [Banner](#)) [Discussion]

Kirk stated that the launch of the 50th anniversary will take place at SAM AI. Plans are being developed to provide SAM members with a history of SAM and a celebration.

5. New Business

1. Consideration of [Eligible Candidates for SAM President Elect 2021-22](#) [Action]

Dale reviewed the list of eligible candidates that follows the language from the SAM Bylaws. The SAM President-Elect ballot is not opened to the SAM membership but is a task (vote) of the SAM Board.

Cal Ketchum made a motion to approve the list of candidates; Michelle Halberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kirk explained that a follow-up email will go to all eligible candidates. He asked that eligible candidates contact Dale and Kirk to communicate their interest. A ballot with the slate of candidates will then be sent to SAM Board members.

2. Consideration of SAM Youth Endowment Distribution 2021 ([Compiled Scoring Results](#)) [Action]

Dale reviewed the distribution requests stating that the requested amount is more than the budgeted amount. Kirk reviewed the Bylaws that state that 75% of the budget amount can be disbursed. However, the SAM Board may choose to over-expend the budgeted amount.

Rick Duncan made a motion to approve all requested scholarships at the requested amount; Cathy Maloney seconded the motion.

Discussion: Dale pointed out that some of the scores were less than half of the total possible score. This should be kept in mind when the board is faced with making the difficult decision of whether or not a request fits the purpose of the fund.

The motion passed unanimously.

Kirk asked the board if they would like the SAM Office to develop a different process for scoring the SAM Youth Endowment applications. Cal suggested the possibility of forming a scoring committee. Rick stated that a committee process has been used in the past. Cathy volunteered to be on the committee as she created a different rubric for scoring that made it easier for her. Dale agreed that the rubric can be difficult. Cal suggested removing the dollar amount from the application form but state that allow the Board to choose the top applications and disburse \$1000 of the funds to each. Shelley stated that discussion took place in the past around what an applicant would do with extra funds if an application requested less than \$1000 and the Board awarded more money than requested.

Shelley suggested matching the application more closely with the scoring rubric. The SAM office will propose a different scoring/rubric process and present it at the next SAM Board meeting. Cathy asked if each category on the application should be revamped. Kirk reviewed the SAM Youth Endowment section of the SAM Policy Manual and the SAM Youth Endowment webpage. Dale suggested comparing the language with the application and rubric.

3. Consideration of 2019 Tax 990 for [SAM](#) [Action]

Kirk stated that SAM has worked with the same accountants for the past four years on our Form 990 Taxes and the system appears to be working for tax preparation.

Greg Dern made a motion to approve the SAM 990; Shelley Andres seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of 2019 Tax 990 for [MASS](#) [Action]

Greg Dern made a motion to approve the SAM 990; Mike Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of [SAM Business Sponsorship Proposed Benefit Levels 2021-22](#) [Action]

Kirk reviewed the proposed benefit levels. The additional benefit is the “Opportunity to present at Regional Affiliate meetings (with regional president/director approval)” for SAM Business Partners at the \$7500 and higher level - Glacier and Big Sky sponsors.

Cal Ketchum made a motion to approve the proposed benefit levels; Jake Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of SAM Business Partnerships [Action]

- Boardworks ([Request and Info](#))

Mike Perry made a motion to approve Boardworks as a SAM Business Partner at the \$1500 level; Cal Ketchum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 45 Architecture, LLC ([Request and Info](#))

Casey Klasna made a motion to approve 45 Architecture, LLC as a SAM Business Partner at the \$1500 level; Michelle Halberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

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

1. SAM Executive Board Virtual Meeting 3-15-21 Report
2. SAM Staff Evaluation Reviews 2020-21 and Contracts for 2021-22

Dale’s report was given earlier in the meeting.

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

1. [Executive Director Update 3-23-21](#)
2. [SAM Strategic Plan Executive Summary 3rd Quarter 2020-21](#)

Kirk invited board members to review the documents. He thanked all board members for their work on the board that in turn helps accomplish SAM’s strategic plan.

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

1. Review of 2019 Tax 990 for [SAM](#) and [MASS](#)
2. [SAM Financial Report FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 3rd Quarter with Proposed FY 21-22 Budget](#)
3. Review Affiliate Financial Reports with Proposed FY21-22 Budgets – [MASS](#), [MAEMSP](#), [MASSP](#), [MCASE](#), [META](#)
4. [Review Investment Committee Balance Report 3rd Quarter](#)

5. Review of SAM Business Sponsors 2020-21 – [webpage](#), [Business Partners 2020-21](#)

Kirk invited board members to review the first look at the Proposed FY 21-22 Budgets for SAM and affiliate associations. The SAM Investment/Finance Committee continues to monitor and make recommendations for the all financially related responsibilities of the SAM. The actual FY 21-22 Budgets will be adopted by the Boards of Directors later this spring.

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

Kirk reported that as of 3/18/21, SAM is at an all-time record membership of 1107. He thanked each affiliate’s leadership and the SAM office team for working to increase membership.

10. **Affiliate Reports – *Affiliate Presidents***

MACSS: Cathy reported that MACSS is planning for a summer conference in Virginia City and in Miles City in the fall - both in-person.

MCASE: Michelle reported that MCASE is joining MCEC on April 15th for a virtual conference. She thanked those who nominated their special education educators for awards that will be presented at the conference.

MASSP: Shawn reported that a great joint conference with MAEMSP was held in January. He is working with MAEMSP to plan next year’s conference that will hopefully be held in Bozeman in January.

MASS: Casey reported that the MASS Virtual Spring Conference was held today with a Federal Advocacy update, legislative update and presentation by the SAM LPLP Providers.

MAEMSP: Shelley thanked Kirk, Gary, and Kim for their leadership.

META: No report

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

1. [2021 Legislative Session](#) Update
2. [Federal Advocacy Update](#) – *Affiliate Federal Relations Coordinators*

These reports were given earlier in the meeting.

12. **Future Meeting Dates**

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

- [2021-22 SAM Conference - Meeting DRAFT Schedule](#)
- [2021-22 SAM and Affiliate Board Meeting DRAFT Schedule](#)

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 PM.

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

DRAFT