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School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

Visionary leaders united in providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students!

Volume XL

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Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

Feb. 28 - March 2:
[MCEC Conference - Missoula](#)

March 19 - 20: MASS
Spring Conference - Helena
- [Registration](#)

March 19 - 21:
METAtchED Conference -
Helena - [Registration](#)

April 4 - 6:
MAEMSP/MASSP Spring

Greetings from META...

by Rich Lawrence, META President

As we enter into another new year META has been very busy with many new and ongoing projects as well as initiatives. Over the last year, we have been working to address several major issues that have had impacts at various levels across the State.

We formed a subgroup within META to help assess threats and create best practices related to the Cyber Security attacks we experienced here in Montana last year. Because of the nature of this kind of threat, this is an ongoing effort. We have presented information and are continuing to create best practices using many tools including the TLE standards addressed in CoSN's Trusted Learning Environment.

We have also worked with an outside consultant to build a Website to address another major issue we are all facing and that is ADA Website Compliance. Our Website is up and running and can be found by going to SAM's Web Page, click the META tab and then drop down to [META Website Accessibility Project](#). This site gives some great information to help all Education Organizations in the State that are working towards ADA Compliance.

The [METAtchED Conference](#) is rapidly approaching. It will be held in Helena on March 19-21 at the Radisson Colonial Hotel. We are working hard and feel we have put together a great group of Speakers and Vendors for this event. The overall theme of this Conference is Data Management and Security in Education. For the first time, our Conference will coincide with the MASS Spring Conference and we are very excited about that.

We have many challenges right now in Instructional Technology. We are seeing our Educational Data Infrastructure being attacked by global cyber criminals and at the same time we are faced with substantial budgetary issues. The one thing that I do know for sure is that Montana Educators are some of the most resilient in the nation and we will work through all of this and our Students will perform at the highest levels, just as they do now.

Thank you all for all you do for our Students in Montana,

Rich Lawrence, MASS President

Montana Education Administrators Lead with Heart and Mind!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

April 3 is Opening Day for 2018-19 SAM Online Membership Drive!

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

Conference - Fairmont
[Registration](#)

April 17-19: MACSS
Spring Conference -
Whitefish - [Information](#)

July 30 - August 1: SAM
Administrators Institute
- Helena

**** [View the full SAM
Calendar](#)****

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Thanks for your leadership SAM members! The events of the past month beginning with the tragic school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, followed by the public reaction and appeal

for solutions to protect our children, reinforce the absolute need for leadership with heart and mind in our schools. Every community and citizen has been affected by this heartbreak, and we grieve the loss of the lives of our children and education colleagues in this senseless act. The mounting call for solutions impacts the education environment in every school across our state. Our public schools are a microcosm of our society and events that impact society are always front and center in our schools. It is in this context, school administrators in Montana have chosen to lead in order to assist their school and community with the healing that must occur, and the effort to implement the solutions that will be formed. Having been an educator for 35 years, I realize the great importance of our school administrators' role in leading with both heart and mind. Several schools, this past week, have been working to resolve instances of potential threats in their school environment, having done so swiftly and with open communication. With many contacts with administrators this past week, I want to thank you for embracing the leadership role with both heart and mind to help your school community work together to develop solutions that will both heal and create a culture of safety for the children you serve in your schools.

The Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC) partners met on Monday (2/26) and resolved to create resources that our schools can use when considering school safety. Expect 'Issue Spotlights' to be available soon to address the many facets that school safety

The time is near for renewing your SAM affiliate memberships! As with this past membership year, renewals for 2018-19 will be done online. Your district clerk will once again be the "key contact" for those associated with school districts. Beginning April 3, your district clerk will be receiving the first notification of steps for processing online renewals and new member forms. You, as a member, will receive a notification shortly thereafter. You may want to inform your clerk early about the online membership drive email notification coming on April 3.

Any members, that are not affiliated with a school district clerk or secretary, will be the key contact for this first notification email described above. Once again, membership dues can only be paid by check once memberships are renewed through the online form and can be mailed to:

*School Administrators of Montana
900 N. Montana Avenue, Suite A-4
Helena, MT 59601*

Once the 2018-19 membership drive begins, we do encourage you to renew your membership early so you can start the next fiscal year with full benefits of your membership in place without any chance of lapse.

SAM is currently 1053 memberships strong accumulating from all 6 affiliates of MASS, MAEMSP, MASSP, META, MCASE, and MACSS, including SAM Institutional Memberships. That is 33 more than last year and 66 more memberships than the previous year! The SAM numbers keep growing and growing and hopefully will increase even more for next year! The leadership, integrity, professionalism, advocacy, and professional learning services are only as strong as the unity of the members that belong to our SAM organization!



embodies, written in a concise and useable format to assist with decision making. Conversations with OPI are underway to help develop resource materials for all schools related to school safety that we hope will be placed on the OPI website. The national associations have been flooding the education publications with documents and recommendations on a variety of school safety issues. We will be taking those recommendations and through analysis with our Montana schools in mind, write the 'Issue Spotlights' that will hopefully give you the information you need to assist your school community.

One such topic that is in front of our school leaders right now is that of students who are rising to lead efforts to change the political atmosphere around school safety and demand solutions. In our schools, administrators must consider carefully how to allow students to exercise their rights as citizens to speak out to create change. At the same time ensuring the safety of those students, the non-disruption of the school environment, minimize the liability risk that actions like a student walkout-protest may create, and use this as a teachable moment for student learning. Again, leadership with heart and mind is required of the administrator to ensure that this happens. Because of the timeliness of the student walkout-protest issues related to school safety, SAM and the other associations have created resources for you to consider. The SAM referenced resources are located on the SAM webpage under Headlines and Features – Click [HERE](#) to access that information.

Montana school administrators, thank you for your leadership with heart and mind when faced with challenges that impact student learning, our schools, community and society!

Kirk D. Miller

Look for the email notification coming April 3!

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director at [\(406\)442-2510](tel:(406)442-2510) or email at sampa@sammt.org.

Patricia E. Audet

MASS Spring Conference March 19-20 in Helena!



REGISTER for the 2018 MASS Spring Conference!

METAtechED Spring Conference March 19-21 in Helena!



REGISTER for the 2018 METAtechED Spring Conference!

SAM Leadership

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SAM Youth Endowment

Deadline March 16th!

The purpose of the School Administrators of Montana Youth Endowment Fund is to make a positive impact on the youth of Montana by providing financial assistance to benefit children's health, welfare, and/or education.

Awards to nominated recipients are given in April of each year and announced in the May SAM Bulletin. Recognition of the award will also be given yearly at the SAM Administrators Institute. Visit the [SAM Youth Endowment webpage](#) to view the brochure that contains more information and to access the nomination form. **You can click [HERE](#) to go directly to the online application. The application is due by March 16, 2018.**

Please take a moment to review this wonderful opportunity and nominate a deserving student if you are aware of a need. Please note that only SAM members can make a nomination.



Montana Principals Conference April 4-6, Fairmont Hot Springs!



REGISTER for the 2018

MAEMSP/MASSP

Conference!

An additional room block has been secured at the newly remodeled Copper King Hotel in Butte. You will receive the state rate when booking. Contact the hotel at (406) 565-5001 located at 4655 Harrison Avenue.

Did You Know...

...you can complete an online form to have your administrative vacancies posted on the SAM website? The position, district website, contact information, closing date and link to the online application (if available) will be posted for each vacancy. Click [HERE](#) to access the form directly or visit the [Employment Opportunities page](#) on the SAM website.

...you can access your SAM profile from the [Member Landing Page](#) on the SAM website? Once you login and click on "My

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Profile", you can change your profile picture, change your password, view form submissions, view invoices, and even pay conference registration invoices with a credit card online. All of these options are accessible under the "My Profile" menu tab. Please take a few minutes to explore this new area of the SAM website!

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Please take time to visit their websites.

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