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School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

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

Volume XLIII

March 2022

No. 316



Professional Learning Opportunity Brings Us Together

by Everett Holm, META President

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Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

March 20, 2022 (in Helena):

- **MASS Board Meeting**
- **META Board Meeting**
- **MCASE Board Meeting**
- **5:00 - 8:00 PM**

March 21-22, 2022 (in Helena):

- **MASS/META/MCASE Spring Conference**

March 22, 2022 (in Helena)

- **SAM Board Meeting**
- **3:30 - 6:00 PM**

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

The times they are a changin'. Our schools are emerging to discover the new normal from the COVID pandemic if there is such a thing as normal going forward. In just the past few weeks the conversations we have about current events have changed drastically. Yet we continue to strive to provide a great education for the students in our care.

Yet there remain many challenges that we are faced with. If you're a Superintendent you might be worried about hiring teachers for next year. If you're in Special Education your worries may be centered around IEP's and serving all your students. And if you're a technologist your worries may be centered around preventing a cyber attack on your district's network. But the great news is we have great opportunities to get together and problem solve these challenges as well as having the opportunity to hear fresh ideas in addition to stepping back for a moment to recharge our batteries.

Coming up on March 21-22 will be a great conference being put together by three of our SAM affiliate organizations, MASS, META and MCASE where we will have the opportunity to come together both in person and virtually. A full agenda over the two days will consist of many topics including great keynote speakers covering all three of our specialties for Superintendents, Special Education and Technologists. In addition to our keynote speakers there will be more than 18 breakout sessions, an awards banquet where we will recognize award recipients from our affiliates, and maybe most importantly socials to continue networking and collaboration of ideas.

In addition to our great conference, now would be a great time to review the accomplishments of your staff this past year. Maybe more than any other time in education there are great obstacles we have overcome and what we have done needs to be celebrated. Do it now, as our summer will be upon us before we know it and we can continue our celebrations as we take time to reflect and relax and make our upcoming school year an even better one.

Everett Holm
META President

SAM Strategy... Promoting the Value Your School Brings to the Community!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director



This past fall, facing significant challenges created by the COVID pandemic and a politically charged atmosphere, SAM and our education partners outlined a strategy to capture the attention of the local community members so that our communities would not stand idly by as orchestrated attacks on local schools appears to have become a nation-wide, well organized and funded effort. Those in our nation, who would want to privatize our public schools for profit, are behind this effort, and in checking with education leaders across the country (recent discussions in February at the AASA National Conference on Education and the NAESP NASSP National Advocacy Leaders Conferences), this movement is happening in a coordinated way in all states across the nation. The challenge for Montana, as outlined in the SAM strategy, is that a loss of support for the public school in your community may very likely result in the closing of your school because of the lack of ability to retain quality staff under the conditions of constant attack that have been experienced. As pointed out, this form of consolidation is nefarious, happening right in front of us, and will be the death knell for small communities living in our healthy, independent nature here in Montana.

Thank you to this month's featured Business Partners!



The SAM strategy, bolstered by the entire education community, is to get the attention of our community leaders and citizens by promoting the great opportunities and value your local school brings to the community. Some six months after launching this strategy, the attack on our schools continues, but great progress has been made, by you, in getting the attention of your local community. I want to thank each and every one of you who have taken steps to implement the strategies to tell the great story of success your school provides for the community. The SAM webpage has easy access to the tools available to help you tell your story at this [LINK](#). I challenge you to keep this effort on the front burner this spring.

In March, your SAM association begins the evaluation of what is yet to be accomplished in the current year and planning for the 2022-23 school year. The SAM Executive Board and Board of Directors will be meeting in March to review and take action on these big concepts that drive the work of our association to support the needs of our members. These decisions will be made with the SAM Strategic Plan providing guidance.

SAM Strategic Plan Goals

Leadership Involved in Decisions that Impact Education: SAM affiliate members modeling and promoting the highest levels of professionalism, integrity and leadership actively engage in impactful discussions on education.

Advocacy: SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and prepared to use it to advocate for public education.

Professional Learning and Services: SAM will extend and expand the professional learning delivery system using the expertise of the SAM affiliate's, as well as other service providers through professional development, mentorship, and other member services.

SAM members are at the table assisting in decision making on many, many topics, issues and agendas that will impact the education of our students. Review of the Montana administrative rules for Chapter 57 (Educator Licensure), Chapter 58 (Professional Educator Preparation), and Chapter 55 (Accreditation) are all in process right now. Those of you providing this expertise and effort - Thank You ... your commitment to having the voice of education leaders at the table is so very important.

Our SAM office team wishes you great success in all you set off to accomplish in March and for the end of the 2021-22 school year. Contact us if we can assist you in any way!

Kirk J. Miller

SAM Youth Endowment Nominations Close March 4

Nominations are close Friday, March 4 for the 2021-22 SAM Youth Endowment. The purpose of the School Administrators of

SAM Board of Directors Announces Hiring of New Executive Director

The SAM Board of Directors has been working on a succession plan for about six months upon the announcement of Dr. Miller's retirement. The SAM Executive Board of Directors (SAM Board officers and president of each SAM affiliate)

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Dr. Greg Dern

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Dave Wick

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Past President

Rick Duncan

Federal Relations Coordinator

MCASE

Sara Novak

President

MACSS

Erin Lipkind

President

Montana Youth Endowment 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. Emergency requests will be accepted and presented to the board on an as-requested basis made throughout the year. **Additional information, nomination guidelines, and access to the 2021-22 SAM Youth Endowment Nomination Form can be found [HERE](#).** Please note: submissions must be made by a current SAM member.

Award Nomination Deadlines Coming Soon!

**This is the last chance to nominate a
deserving educator you know for one of
the current award opportunities!**

Nominate a Superintendent: (Deadline
March 4, 2022)

- [META Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award](#)

**Nominate a Technology
Director:** (Deadline March 4, 2022)

- [META Technologist of the Year Award](#)

**Nominate a Special Education
Administrator:** (Deadline March 4, 2022)

- [MCASE Outstanding Administrator of Special Education Award](#)
- [Lori Ruffier Legacy Award](#)
- [MCASE Nomination for CASE Awards](#)

served as the hiring committee for the hiring of a new executive director. After an extensive search process guided by the hiring committee, the SAM Executive Board is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Rob Watson as the new SAM Executive Director! A [press release was sent to media sources announcing the](#) hiring of Dr. Watson, who will begin his new position on July 1st. Dr. Watson's wealth of experience, collaborative abilities, and commitment to action for the education of Montana's students have earned the respect of not only the education community but of all Montanans who have had the opportunity to engage with him. We welcome Dr. Rob Watson to the SAM office!

The EmpowerED Superintendent edWebinar Series



The [Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\)](#) and its Montana state affiliate chapter, [Montana Educational Technologists Association \(META\)](#) are pleased to continue to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations.

**The EmpowerED Superintendent
edWebinar Series:
*Leadership Strategies to Assure Student
Data Privacy: The Trusted Learning
Environment Seal***

The next episode of Season 4 of the EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar series airs on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm Eastern Time and is titled, "*Leadership Strategies to Assure Student Data Privacy: The Trusted Learning Environment Seal*". The concerns and challenges involved in protecting student data privacy have always been critically important to school operations. However, as schools today increasingly rely on digital tools for teaching,

META
Everett Holm
President

SAM Office
Kirk Miller
Executive Director

Kim Scofield
Director of Member Services &
Professional Learning

Marcus Meyer
Director of Operations,
Membership & Finances

- Harrie M. Selznick CASE Distinguished Service
- CASE Outstanding Administrator of Special Education
- Outstanding Service to CASE CASE

- [Early Career Special Education Administrator Award Nomination](#)

Nominate a County Superintendent (Deadline March 15, 2022)

- [2022 MACSS County Superintendent of the Year](#)

Nominate a Teacher:

- [MCASE Special Education Teacher Award](#) (Deadline March 4, 2022)
- [MCASE General Education Teacher Award](#) (Deadline March 4, 2022)
- [2022 Montana Rural Teacher of the Year Application](#) (Deadline March 15, 2022)



Imagine Learning (formerly Edgenuity) Update

Hello MT Administrators! We have lots of exciting updates in 2022 from Edgenuity and virtual tools. The biggest news is that as a company we have consolidated all of our brands under one roof now called, “Imagine Learning”. Edgenuity isn’t going anywhere, and all existing customer access and student experience stays the same. This change just means that our once separate product lines

learning and school administration, assuring student data privacy is now more urgent than ever. One strategy many school districts have used is successfully completing the process of earning The Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal. The TLE Program is the nation’s only privacy framework designed specifically for school systems.

In the upcoming March 14, 2022, EmpowerED Superintendent webinar, two leading-edge school superintendents share their recommended leadership strategies to assure student data privacy. The Superintendents will also relate the processes their districts employed to earn the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal. You are invited to join in the conversation with Dr. Lori Rapp, Superintendent, Lewisville Independent School District (TX) and Dr. Oskar Scheikl, Superintendent, Rockingham County Public Schools (VA). Linnette Attai, Project Director for CoSN’s Privacy Initiative and the Trusted Learning Environment Program serves as the panel moderator. Free registration for the March 14, 2022, webinar is now available at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>

Interoperability: Seamlessly Sharing Data, Content, and Services Within School District Systems or Applications The previous episode of the EmpowerED Superintendent edWebinar series aired on February 14, 2022. In this webinar broadcast Superintendents Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Texarkana Independent School District (TX), Dr. Michael T. Conner, Superintendent Middletown Public Schools in Middletown, CT and Learning 2025 National Commissioner, Dr. Mary Wegner, Assistant Professor, Superintendent, and Educational Leadership Coordinator at the School of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast, and Paula Maylahn, Project Director for CoSN’s Interoperability Issues, shared successful policies, strategies, and training solutions they have implemented and recommend to help districts assure the interoperability of their academic and operational systems.

Free access to webinar recording: If you missed the Monday, February 14, 2022,

are all offered together with a single point of contact (me). Below are highlights to the new, much more robust K-8 products in case you want to check those out. I will remain Montana's point of contact for all things Imagine Learning. I hope everyone across the state has a healthy and safe Spring Semester.

Imagine Language & Literacy for PreK-8:

- Help students of all abilities develop **foundational literacy** and grade-level reading proficiency
- Build teacher capacity to differentiate instruction for all students, on-, below-, or above-grade level
- Accelerate English Language acquisition and reading proficiency for EL's
- 3 min overview video [here](#)

Imagine Math PreK-8:

- Adaptive, online supplemental program that ignites engagement across two distinctive age-appropriate learning environments
- MT standards aligned, and designed to support the Universal Designed for Learning
- **Live, bilingual, certified Math teachers available on-demand for tutoring support**
- Can directly align to most Core Math Curricula scope and sequence out of the box – no extra alignment work needed
- Bi-lingual and Spanish version available
- 3 min overview video [here](#) (example of an implementation in an Idaho school)

ELL and Dual Language Programs:

- Develop literacy skills that transfer to any language and build grade-level reading proficiency in Spanish
- Allows students to virtually visit 8 countries with exposure to authentic accents, music, and art

EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar, co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net, and sponsored by ClassLink, you can still access the free webinar recording at: <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>. You will also be able to access free recordings and podcasts of multiple previously broadcast webinars in the EmpowerED Superintendent series at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>.

CoSN Resources:

Resources Referenced During the February 14, 2022, EmpowerED Superintendent edWebinar:

CoSN Critical Focus Area One Pager: [Interoper-What? The importance of interoperability in School Systems](#) CoSN Interoperability Toolkit <https://www.cosn.org/tools-resources/toolkits/interoperability/>

Financing Technology Innovations - Strategies and Tools:

Links to tools to assist in calculating Total Cost of Ownership & Value of Investment are listed on the CoSN EmpowerED Superintendent web page at <https://www.cosn.org/edtech-topics/empowered-superintendents/>

CoSN 2022 Annual Conference:

The CoSN 2022 Annual Conference will take place on April 11-13, 2022, in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference will be a hybrid experience to accommodate all who wish to meet safely in-person as well as those who elect to participate remotely. You can preview the conference program and access registration information at <https://cosnconference.org/>.

CoSN Membership:

If you, your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please contact membership@cosn.org.

2022-23 SAM Membership Drive Launches April 11!

- Structured practice and exposure to foundational, early language, and literacy skills in Spanish
- 3 min overview video [here](#)

happy
St. Patrick's
day!

The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) Membership Drive will begin on Monday, April 11 for the 2022-23 membership year! We will once again be using the online renewal process that we have used the past several years. As the "key contact" for a district, district clerks/business managers will receive an email that will include information for completing membership renewals for their district's MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members. Please work with your district clerk/business manager to be sure your membership is correct. MCASE members and members not linked to a school district will receive an email that will include a link to their membership renewal form. We encourage you to renew your membership early so you can start the next fiscal year with the full benefits of your membership in place and without any chance of it lapsing. Contact the SAM Office with any questions you may have.

MASS/META/MCASE Spring Conference

Hand in Hand - Together

March 21-22, 2022 **Delta Colonial, Helena
or Virtual**

REGISTER HERE



MASS, META, and MCASE are joining together to offer exceptional professional learning and an opportunity to network and connect with colleagues at the MASS/META/MCASE Spring Conference in Helena at the Delta Colonial (and also virtually) March 21 - 22, 2022 -- **Hand-in-Hand, Together!** **Room blocks are available at the Delta Colonial and at the Fairfield Inn.** An outstanding agenda is being developed by the affiliate leadership with keynote speakers, Dr. David Schuler (AASA Superintendent of the Year and Chair of the EmpowerED Superintendent Advisory Panel), Dr. Paul Imhoff (AASA President), Andy Hanks (MT Chief Information Officer), Dr. Kerrie Cissna (Professor - Pepperdine University), Jeff Patterson (President & CEO - K12 MT, former META President). Eighteen breakout sessions, awards banquet, business meetings, and socials will also be on the agenda. **Follow this link for more information and to register:** [MASS/META/MCASE Spring Conference](#)



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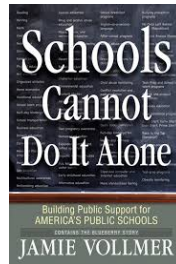
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