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SAM Bulletin - November 2021

1 message

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School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

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

Volume XLIII**November 2021****No. 312**

Click [HERE](#) to read this publication in its entirety from your browser.

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Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

**January 23-25, 2022:
Montana Principals Conference - Bozeman**

** View the full SAM Calendar**

Thank you to this month's featured Business Partners!

Finding Peace this Thanksgiving Season

by Sara Novak, MCASE President

We have officially finished up our first quarter of the 2021-22 school year. I don't typically count the days down; however, it does seem like a milestone that we have made it successfully through this first quarter. In August, I was looking forward to the year and had imagined this year to be better than the past two. I have a much different perspective here as we make our way into November. This year has brought frustration, sadness, illness and loss. As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, it is important to keep focused on the positives and remind ourselves what we do have to be thankful for.

In a recent leadership group, some colleagues and I discussed how even just a small amount of negative mixed in with our positive self-talk is still toxic. We also discussed how relying on our virtues such as honesty, integrity, generosity, kindness, etc. all make our actions pure and profound. This can give us the clarity we need to get through these tough times.

In a climate that is uneasy, staying focused and being intentional with people is vital. As leaders we must be human, be vulnerable and be willing to take risks. Teambuilding and communication are essential in helping to drive folks to a path in which they can see where others are coming from. Modeling flexibility and self-care is just as important.

Every day I tell my kids to have a good day and I remind them that each new day is a fresh start. I have more and more been reminding myself of these very statements. The conflicts and the devastating news just keep coming throughout each day. It is so easy to get wrapped up in that and focus on the negative. Yet, there is so much beauty surrounding us and so much to be thankful for. As the season changes, we are emersed by beautiful colors, mountains, trees and wildlife. As I take in this beauty, I am reminded how lucky I am to have my team. From my team at home to my team at work, I am blessed with the best.

I would challenge each of you to take a walk or a drive. Take in the beauty that surrounds you. Focus on the sky, sun, clouds, grass, trees, birds, mountains, focus on whatever it is you see that draws you in. Take a moment to tell yourself that you are enough and you are making a difference. Take a moment to celebrate the little things that in the end make a big difference. Take a moment each day to celebrate you. Celebrating yourself will help to appreciate what is important and allow you to share that positivity with those around you. It is my hope that we all find peace in this season of being thankful.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Sara Novak
MCASE President*

The Crossroads of Advocacy and Professional Learning ... SAM Style!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

MAEMSP and MASSP Awards are Open for Nomination



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Advocacy for the future of our schools continues to be on my mind as we are thinking about the impact of the COVID pandemic on our way of life. In my work as your SAM Executive Director, I have learned that the blend of effective advocacy and professional learning is cyclical, with having a seat at the table on

decisions that impact the education of our children a part of the mix. November election time (November 2) brings this process to mind. A key question is "how do we get the voices of our education leaders heard on advocacy issues?" The recent **SAM Strategy - Promoting the Value Your School Brings to the Community** is at the forefront of the advocacy issues right now. The professional learning of all of SAM administrators collectively will ultimately lead to the success of the advocacy endeavor. I reviewed some previous thoughts about effective advocacy for educators, brushed up those ideas, and am sharing for you to contemplate.

A tiered system will work best for getting educator voices heard – think ... Universal, Targeted, and Comprehensive as the tiers (similar to the systemic design of MTSS, MBI and even the Montana ESSA plan).

Universal – All schools

- Develop and tell 'your story' for educating students in your school, including the value your school brings to the community. You can use the template of **GREAT 2021 Vol IX** (released by MT-PEC at MCEL 2021 – see the [Press Release](#) for some concise language) to tailor this info for your school.
- Develop a strategy to tell 'your story' widely in your community and include legislators, community business leaders, and also community non-profit association leaders in that distribution. Resources for developing your story can be found in the 4 components of the SAM Strategy outlined [HERE](#).
- Some research on an effective strategic approach has been developed and promoted by Jamie Vollmer in the "Schools Cannot Do It Alone Network" found at <https://www.jamievollmer.com/>. You may even want to consider joining the Montana Chapter (info at <https://www.jamievollmer.com/video-series/>).
- Building trust with your community, for what you do and provide for students, is the single most significant element for helping create a culture of support for schools.

Targeted – Schools who realize the importance of advocating for educating our students as critical to future success and imperative for the ongoing welfare of your community

- Be sure to share 'your story' with your entire education team in the district – teachers, classified staff, and volunteers so they can be advocates of the story. In most communities, the total school staff is a large part of the community population. Give them the tools to speak positively about what their combined efforts are accomplishing and contributing to the community. Charge your team with being a positive influence on telling the story in the community. This may be the biggest part of the strategy to be successful.
- Invite your community to visit your schools so they can see the outstanding atmosphere that you provide for student learning and student well-being.
- Work with the school district leadership and formally invite all legislators (Senators and Representatives), community business leaders,

The following awards are open for nominations until **Friday, December 17, 2021!** Please consider nominating a deserving candidate and recognizing them for the great work they are doing in your schools and communities to enhance the education of our Montana children. For more information about each award, visit the [MAEMSP Awards](#) and [MASSP Awards](#) webpages or follow the links below.

MAEMSP Awards

- [MAEMSP National Distinguished Principal](#)
- [MAEMSP Adrian Langstaff Award](#)
- [NAESP Conference Incentive Award](#)
- [MAEMSP Friends of Education Award](#)
- [MAEMSP Aspiring Principal Scholarship](#)
- [MAEMSP Appreciation Award](#)

MASSP Awards

- [MASSP Principal of the Year](#)
- [MASSP Community Partner in Education Award](#)
- [MASSP Future Administrator Scholarship](#)



Montana Principals Conference 2022: January 23-25!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Montana Principals Conference 2022! The conference is scheduled for January 23-25 in Bozeman at the Best Western GranTree Inn. A virtual option will also be available. You will not want to miss the line-up of national speakers who will be presenting in-person:

Joe Sanfilippo

Ruby Payne

Rick Wormeli

Coach Vigen (MSU) and Coach Hauck (UM) will also be onsite for presentations. Several breakout sessions along with time for you to connect with your colleagues are also on the agenda.

Watch for registration and more information coming soon!

SAM Awards Presented at MCEL/Annual SAM Business Meeting

Dave Wick
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and also community non-profit association leaders to attend an event(s) at your school. Make them feel welcome when they are there so they can feel the great culture established.

- Build a relationship with the legislators, business leaders and non-profit association leaders who serve your school so they feel welcome and will want to seek your advice on education related issues.

Comprehensive – Schools who believe strongly in insuring the community learn about the value of their school to the community and the children served

- Work with your school district leadership to formally invite the legislators, community business leaders, and also community non-profit association leaders that represent your school to a formal tour of your school/district. Show them (use the, tell ‘your story’ as a guide) your successes and challenges first hand, as well as your goals for the future of your school. Let them know how their support can help.
- Capture the thoughts of the community leaders as they provide feedback on what you have provided them the opportunity to see. Follow up individually with any questions or take-aways that you learn from inviting leaders to see the value of your school to their community.
- Sign up for any organization or group that is willing to hear the story of the value your school brings to the community – and go forth and tell the story. You may want to bring along a student or member of your school team to those conversations in the community as their voice can be extremely effective in impacting community members – especially on the components of “school as the heart of the community” and “school as developing community Pride around the accomplishments of our children”.

I hope this overview of a tiered concept to promote the value your school brings to the community will give you some ideas for implementing your strategy with your community. This bit of professional learning is intended to help you with advocacy for your school.

We are here at SAM to assist you with building trust with your community leading to a culture of support for your schools! Have a great November.

Kirk D. Miller

SAM Youth Endowment Now Open for Nominations

Nominations are open until March 2nd for the 2021-22 SAM Youth Endowment. The purpose of the School Administrators of 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.

SAM is proud to announce the award recipients who were recognized during MCEL and the SAM Virtual Business Meeting on October 22, 2021. SAM congratulates all award winners!

- **2021 G.V. Erickson Award** - Dr. Doug Reisig: Dr. Reisig is the Superintendent at Target Range Elementary School District. Click [HERE](#) for more information about Dr. Reisig and the G.V. Erickson Award.
- **MASS Superintendent of the Year** - Brad Moore: Brad is the Assistant Superintendent at Havre Public Schools. He is eligible for the National Superintendent of the Year Award. AASA will announce the National Superintendent of the Year in February 2022. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- **MASS Honor School Boards of the Year** - School boards from Big Sky and Kalispell were recognized as recipients of the Montana Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Honor School Boards of the Year. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the outstanding work of these school boards.
- **Jay Erdie Memorial Scholarship** - Julia Maxwell, teacher at Ulm Schools is the recipient of the Jay Erdie Memorial Scholarship. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Julia and this scholarship.



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.

“Social-Emotional Learning: Leveraging Technology to Care for All”

The third episode of Season 4 of the EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar series airs on Monday, November 8, 2021, at 3:00 pm Mountain Time and is titled, “Social-Emotional Learning: Leveraging Technology to Care for All”. The CoSN 2021 Driving K-12 Innovation Report identified Social Emotional Learning as one of the three accelerators or mega-trends in K-12 education today. The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic heightened the need to address the social and emotional aspects of learning, not only for students and their families, but also for teachers, school leaders and administrators.

In this edWebinar, three innovative, compassionate superintendents share how they address the social and emotional needs of the students, staff, and families in their



Release of GREAT 2021 Vol. IX

The public education advocacy groups partnering in the Montana Public Education Center (MTPEC) released findings from the 9th annual survey of Montana voters' attitudes toward Montana's public schools today. Montana voters expressed high trust and strong support for the efforts of Montana's public schools in rising to the challenges of the pandemic. Key findings from the poll results included:

1. Many Montana voters give their local public schools a grade of either A or B.
2. Over 65% of Montana voters believe school boards and local voters should have the most authority to determine how public schools operate in their communities. The support for federal and state officials having control over these issues was much lower with totals of 3.7% or lower each for the federal government (3.7%), state superintendent (3.3%), governor (2.5%) and legislature (2.2%).
3. Montana voters trust classroom teachers and elected school boards the most among public officials when it comes to deciding what is best for students in Montana's public schools.
4. Montana voters overwhelmingly prefer a well-rounded public education system (88.6%) compared to only core curriculum (9.3%). 78% of Montana voters also support state-funded public pre-school.
5. 97% of Montana voters believe it is important to have quality K-12 public schools operating in their community. Those voters who identified that the pandemic increased their perception of the importance of having quality schools outnumbered those who identified that the pandemic decreased their perception of the importance of having quality schools by 36% to 12%.

Our community schools provide a launching point where Montanans rise and collaborate to support the growth and development of children, supporting academics, the arts, activities, and athletics and other components of a well-rounded public education. Our community schools also drive the economic success of our communities.

For more information, click [HERE](#) or go to www.mt-pec.org or download The Great Work of Montana's Public Schools Volume IX (October 2021).

school districts. The following recommendations from the CoSN 2021 Driving K-12 Innovation Report will be highlighted along with examples for leading the implementation of each recommendation:

- 1) Provide SEL and well-being support for educators and students.
- 2) Integrate SEL into curriculum.
- 3) Build educator and community buy-in.

Additionally the superintendents will each review the strategies and practices they are leading in their districts to leverage technology tools to address the challenges of social-emotional learning.

You are invited to join in the conversation with Dr. Ann Levett, Superintendent, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, GA, Dr. David Miyashiro, Superintendent, Cajon Valley Union School District, CA; and Mr. Glenn Robbins, Superintendent, Brigantine Public Schools, NJ. Free registration for the November 8, 2021, webinar is now available at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>

The CoSN 2021 Driving K-12 Innovation Report which will be referenced during the edWebinar SEL conversation can be accessed [HERE](#).

Cybersecurity: School Leadership Strategies for Preventing and Responding to Cyberattacks

The October 11, 2021, EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar was titled *Cybersecurity: School Leadership Strategies for Preventing and Responding to Cyberattacks*. In this edWebinar, Superintendents Matt Miller, Lakota Local Schools, OH, Dr. Michelle Reid, Northshore School District, WA and Dr. Hank Thiele, Community High School District 99, IL, shared their knowledge and experiences in leading cybersecurity awareness in their school systems. Strategies for preventing cyberattacks and recommendations for responding effectively when they do occur were also discussed.

Free access to webinar recording: If you missed the Monday, October 11, 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 Membership

If your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please contact Brian Calvary, CAE, CoSN Director of Membership and Chapters, at bcalvary@cosn.org.



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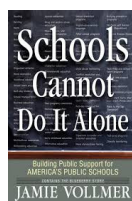
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