

SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee Meeting Notes 12-6-18

SAM Office or [UberConference](#)

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Invited: Rick Duncan (Chair & MASS), *Karen Underwood (MCASE), Paul Furthmyre (MASSP), Jack Eggensperger (MACSS), Todd Lark (META), Bruce Whitehead (MAEMSP). SAM office: Kirk Miller, Pat Audet

Absent - *Tamra Covington - replaced by Karen Underwood

Agenda

1. Introductions – Rick Duncan, Chair presiding
 - Defined the DA Steering Committee
 - Defined the designations
 - Mentioned that the DA work of resolutions and positions were passed by the membership at MCEL during SAM Business Meeting
 - Reviewed the 5 SAM Advocacy Priorities
2. Review of [SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee DRAFT Notes 5-7-18 and Reconvene 5-17-18](#)
 - Article VI explained (passed) - goes into effect June of 2019
 - Motion by Jack to approve the notes; seconded by Paul; Passed Unanimously
3. Preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session
 - [Webpage](#) tools demo - Kirk demonstrated the Advocacy resources on the SAM Website under the Advocacy button and tabs. This included using the Legislative Website and looking at searching bills. He also showed the “SAM Followed Bills category.”
 - [Letter to Legislators](#)
 - Kirk explained that this was sent with attachments to all legislators by mail and email. This was sent on November 30.
 - Rick asked about the location on the Brochure; it is now an infographic on the website - Rick likes this as a good basis for the elevator speech.
 - Rick referenced the email of Llew Jones - still Senate, not House. This is still current despite Llew now being in the House.
 - Identifying legislators by school district – Excel Slicer
 - Kirk demonstrated the slicer created by Dennis Parman. It is a massive file so we cannot place on website or send it by email. We can pdf certain sections with contact info and send by email upon request.

- [SAM Advocacy Priorities](#)
 - Rick discussed these in his introduction. He stated that SAM is set with legislation for all of these priorities.

- [SAMLN19 – Members as of 12-5-18](#)
 - Kirk showed the current listing of those that have registered for the SAM LN. He also referenced regions that are short of members and that hopefully we can get those gaps filled with registrants. META is short on many regions. Todd will look at this closely and recruit!
 - Bruce asked about Top legislators - Kirk described Bruce Grubbs, Jacob Bachmeier, Llew Jones, Dan Salomon, Fred Thomas
 - Jack suggested Dave Fern and Frank Garner - Dave is carrying some stuff for the MTSBA package
 - NW had breakfast with legislators yesterday - 7 showed up
 - Kirk described the Tax Association Meeting yesterday - Scott Sales (President of the Senate) was the only legislator that showed up and had the mic for 45 minutes - against use of federal funds by states.

- SAM Advocacy Training
 - Prep of training videos for SAMLN 2019
 - Kirk explained and defined each of these tools and strategies and that the SAM office is preparing these for the the Jan. 3 Training.
 - Using the SAM webpage tools
 - How to testify
 - Effective advocacy
 - Rules for advocacy including perception
 - Boomerang as a tool - advocating outside of school time
 - Set training dates Thursday 1-3-19 from 10:00 - 12:00 UberConference
 - Kirk explained the format for the training and use of the tools.
 - Email to region directors of seats to be filled on the SAMLN19 has been sent yesterday and last week.

- [SAM Bills](#) -- Tracking System -- [SAM Followed Bills 12-5-18](#)
 - Rick mentioned that on the Legislative Website, you can look up what committees the legislators are on but also look up what bills the legislator is sponsoring.

- Discussion of Priority Bills
 - Governor's Budget 2021 Biennium - NRD payment recovery
 - Rick described the Section E of the bill with Governor's early education package. Rick also described the recovery of the NRD payment - \$14 million; it should not impact the general fund but be from additional funding.
 - Kirk further described the recovery of NRD payment; this also supports the major maintenance sub fund. This was neglected in the initial Executive budget.

- MT-PEC notified the Governor's Office with this - Tom Livers is the new Budget director and explained that this was an oversight and will be added back and will be back in the December 15 bill.
 - The money is going to be from General Fund and transfers from the mining - it should not taken from other funding and entities within the budget.
- We will support the entire package including the pre-K funding (4 year olds) - \$26.9 million provided strictly for this with local control choice for up to half time.
- OPI Legislative Priorities
 - Rick described some of these priorities
 - Sexual misconduct by staff
 - Must report to OPI for pulling license.
 - This will also look to criminalize this act - Regier
 - School Safety Training - mandate use of one PIR or add
 - This was pulled recently by suggestion from SAM and subsequently by MT-PEC. OPI budget now has \$500,000 each year of biennium for professional development on School Safety.
 - Data Protection - help streamline some of the OPI reports that are required; privacy laws LC0227 - Jones
 - Effort to allow records to be released to OCHE for the MUS - Montana Colleges and Montana Universities
 - Distribution of and align funds with the state treasury
 - Switches large state payment from November to December to allow tax payments to come in and align with funds to school without putting the state general fund at risk.
 - The summary of the OPI priorities is a good read.
- Karen mentioned that the Audiology project is a set expense - funding from the State side and OPI is important - mandated hearing screening
- LC1592 Flexibility in Financing Major Maintenance
 - Kirk described this SAM bill - allowing use of MM sub-fund to payback loans to take out for immediate maintenance from Board of Investment or regular lenders like banks, CU, etc.
 - Rep Bruce Grubbs will carry this bill.
- HB 27 Revision of SPED Funding - Rick discussed this bill and described his conversation with Llew Jones
 - Kirk noted that SAM stance or designation will be placed in the notes portion of the bill tracker.
 - Kirk described the history of the bill through the Interim Committee.
 - Inflation to SPED allowable cost payment and placing within the funding formula; it also supports SPED Cooperatives allowable funding from 5% to 9% - \$3.9 million cost.
 - Will not have an effect on other funding for schools
 - Puts the SPED allowable cost into law
 - Some legislators do not agree with this bill for a couple of reasons:

- Overidentification - only 1% difference between districts and coops
- Decrease in ANB and decrease in SPED pop in rural areas
- The increase in funding would be an incentive for coops to over identify
- Frank will get Rick the numbers hopefully next week
- Karen concur that there are these concerns out there - false idea - not federal dollars, it is ANB
 - severity of disabilities is changing
 - Rate of increase in SPED is increasing similar in coops and schools
- Rick stated that the rate in SPED count will increase by 2% next biennium
- Kirk mentioned that Karen and the MCASE will be meeting about this
- Karen stated that they hope to get together next week with MCASE advocacy leadership.
- SB 6 Revise school funding related to school safety
 - Kirk stated that this bill will allow flexibility for school safety projects to be funded by the MM sub-fund (worked with MTSBA)
- SB 8 Generally revise laws related to participation in extracurricular activities
 - Allows 1/8 ANB for any student to come outside your district to come and participate in your extracurricular activity - home school and private school?
 - MHSA may have a problem - MHSA policies
 - Paul - Conrad put in an MHSA proposal allowance of non-district students
 - SAM will hold tight on this bill until more info
- SB 9 Revise school funding related to overestimated ANB increases
- SB 10 Revise school funding related to major maintenance aid
 - Cleanup bill - no problem in support
- SB 11 Clarify age requirements related to the definition of pupil
 - From 6 to 5 year old definition of pupil kindergarten. Kindergarten mandatory for student if changed
- SB 16 Revise school funding related to special education joint boards
 - Eliminates the language of a joint board - just SPED coop
 - Karen stated this might be good to run by the MCASE meeting for next week
 - Rick stated that Dick Trerise would be good resource for this on time-line
- LC 0030 Generally revise school safety laws
 - Fred Thomas - interdisciplinary county teams - eliminate the superintendent to just all public school districts in the county. Unsure of the need for this
- LC 0227 MUS - Student Data
 - The bill that supports the OPI priority for MUS having access to the student data and preserving student privacy data - OPI to OCHE
- LC 0482 Revise administration of Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program
 - Transfers the responsibility of funding to OPI from OCHE
- LC 0800 19 - 20 yr. Olds - actual costs
 - Increase one more year - definition of a pupil up to 20 years of age
 - Cover additional costs must be in play if this is to comply with the SAM resolution on funding for students older than 19 - additional to ANB provided (actual costs).

- What is the fiscal note? Wait and see - MT-PEC might be in favor but SAM might have to be neutral
- LC0563 (Regier) OPI Priority
- LC2053 - Revise CSCT services (Bachmeier)
 - SAM Resolution for Mental Health Services - Bruce Grubbs
 - Additional, new funding support to mental health programs
 - Rick described the translation of the SAM resolution and send it to Gallatin legislators that have the interest.

4. Federal Issues

- Not a lot happening until after the first of the year
- DeVos dealing with higher ed and sexual assault

5. Other Items

Adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

DRAFT