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School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

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

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Whatever it Takes - The Impact of the Leader

by Dave Wick, MASS President

In our district, we have a meeting once a week of all the administrators and department leaders (food service, office, transportation and maintenance). One of the items in most meetings is a reflection time, where we share perspectives on leadership. I recently asked each leader to provide one word and an explanation to the following question: What one thing makes people follow a leader?

The responses were all thoughtful and provided a framework for discussion. Perseverance, integrity, trust, servanthood, listening, humility, patience, teamwork, empathy, buy-in, consistency, work ethic, and humor were key words shared, with much discussion around the complexities of the job we do every day. The bottom line is to do whatever it takes, to serve our communities, schools, and the people who populate them.

Sometimes as leaders we are not able to quantify the impacts we make on the people we encounter each day. It has been in the profession long enough sometimes allows for us to have the opportunity to receive feedback that tells us the impact we have had. These are the motivating incidents and cherished interactions which keep us going.

Recently, I received an email from a former student who is in medical school and getting his MBA at Harvard. Here is an excerpt.

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

**MCEC and MCASE
Conference 2023:**
February 22-24,
Billings

Public Education
Day: March 13,
Helena

**MASS Spring
Conference:** March
13-14, Great
Northern, Helena

METAtechED:
March 13-14, Delta
Colonial, Helena

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

**Thank you to
this month's
featured
Business
Partners!**



“In finding your email, I saw that you are the Superintendent. Congrats! They could not have picked an better. However, I think it is unfortunate that you don’t have a more direct role with the students. You massive difference in my life, and I feel confident in saying that you have done the same for countless students. You knew exactly what I needed to hear when I was trying to find my way as an awkward junior student, and that was don’t get distracted by girls. I don’t think I would be here without that nudge you needed it. Thank you for that.”

I laughed at his email because he is referring to a remark I made one day at track practice. He was lamenting confusion with girls, and I said, “School and sports”. I guess he listened, looking at his academic record and as an All American in track. He did, however, mention that he had failed me by getting married. Obviously, never failed me or anyone else.

Often, we think of our influence being greater on those at risk students within our school community. Over several of our most difficult students have asked to call me “Dad”, or told others that they think of me as the Dad. While these students would have made me pull out whatever hair I have left if I was related to them, there is nothing to them what influenced their lives. It is important to remember that we influence others across the spectrum of our school communities, in everything we say, do, and write. That may seem burdensome, but keeping in mind the traits mentioned earlier and taking a “whatever it takes” approach to daily leadership is a certain path to success.

Hope you have a great rest of the school year.

Dave Wick
MASS President

Get involved with your 2023 Legislature!!

by Dr. Rob Watson, SAM Executive Director

One month down in the legislative session and only three to go! I have had several questions from members that want to get involved in the legislative process. I thought it may be beneficial to provide everyone with a few tips that may help you engage with your legislators during this session.

Below are some frequent questions that I receive:

As a public employee, how do I engage in opposition or support of legislation?

- You have likely heard that there are some prohibitions when it comes to political engagement by public employees: Montana public employees and officers may not use public time, facilities, equipment, support personnel, or funds to solicit support for or opposition to any political committee, the nomination or appointment of any person to public office, or the passage of a ballot issue. Section 2-2-121(3), MCA. This is why we encourage you to use non-work time and private email when sending messages to your legislators.
- But you should also know that there is an exemption when you engage as a member of a professional organization (SAM): Section 2-2-121(6), MCA states that “a public employee may not engage in any activity including lobbying, as defined in 5-7-102, on behalf of an organization.” However, the statute provides an exemption to this prohibition when the lobbying activity is on behalf of “an organization or association of government officials, of which the public officer or public employee is a member while performing the



Lifetouch.



SAM Leadership

SAM
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 President Elect

MASSP

officer's or public employee's job duties." This exemption permits school employees to lobby as part of a professional organization.

What is the best way to contact legislators during the session?

- You can always email any legislator (or an entire committee) using the system located on the legislative website. Link: <https://leg.mt.gov/session/have-your-say/>
- A couple of tips when sending your thoughts over email:
 - Be sure to identify yourself and your position in your district and be clear about your stance: either as an opponent or proponent of the bill.
 - If possible, always try to send your email at least 24 hours before any potential hearing or action.
 - What if I missed the hearing? Remember that committees typically don't take action on any bill until several days or weeks after the hearing, so you can still send your message after the bill hearing.

What if I want to testify, either in person or over zoom?

- When a bill is heard in committee - those meetings are always open to the public and you can show up to testify.
- A couple of tips when testifying in person
 - Be sure to direct your comments through the chair, and start your testimony with "Mr./Madam members of the committee."
 - Identify yourself and your position before you start your testimony.
 - Clearly spell your name, even if you think it is not necessary.
 - Clearly state your position at the start of your testimony, "I support or I oppose this bill."
 - Stick around the committee hearing. After all testimony is completed you may be called to answer a question from any member of the committee. If that happens, direct your comments through the chair. This prevents back and forth between witnesses and committee members.
 - BE SURE to check on the bill status before leaving for Helena. Many bills get scheduled and then rescheduled. Use the "look up bills" at the bottom of the legislative website: <https://leg.mt.gov>
- Testifying over zoom?
 - You need to sign up by 5pm, the day before the hearing. Doing so will mean they will send you a zoom link and your name will be added to the list of proponents or opponents. Even if you have the zoom link, they may not let you testify if you don't sign up the day before.

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- Use the legislative website to sign up to testify over zoom. Link: <https://leg.mt.gov/session/haysay/>
- Follow the same guidelines listed above for testifying over zoom.

How do I find a list of upcoming hearings and bills that will be heard?

- You can always follow a bill's status using the “look up bills” tab on the legislative website: <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/>
- Unfortunately, the hearing schedule changes frequently. If you are using a SAM report to track upcoming hearings, make sure you are using the latest report. We update our report twice per week.
- We at SAM will do our best to keep you updated about upcoming hearings, but there may be bills that are important to you and your district that SAM is not tracking.
- For those members who are part of the SAM Legislative Network (SAMLN23) the legislative update emails come out twice each week, Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. We attach a 10-day hearing schedule to these emails. A sample of the latest 10-day hearing schedule looks like [THIS](#).

How do I get involved in the SAM Legislative Network (SAMLN23)?

- It is not too late to get involved in our SAMLN23. Use this link to find the registration page for the new session: <https://saom.memberclicks.net/2023-legislative-session>
- What will I get if I am involved in SAMLN23?
 - We will send you updates two times each week with bills we are tracking, position statements, and upcoming hearings.
 - You can participate in our noon Monday zoom meetings where we will discuss and discuss the latest bills and have about the legislature.
 - You will be placed on our text message list for when we have a call to action.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions about getting involved in this legislative session. Also, if you find yourself in Helena to testify, please let us know so we can provide any assistance if needed.

Rob

**Registration is Open for
Upcoming Events!**



Director of Member
Services & Professional
Learning

Marcus Meyer
Director of Operations,
Membership & Finances

- **METAtechED Spring Conference: March 13 (7:00 AM) to March 14 (12:30 PM), Delta Colonial, Helena**

The METAtechED Conference will include 2 days of outstanding information, professional learning and an opportunity to network and connect with colleagues. We encourage all district staff interested in the future of EdTech to attend this conference. There will be information about cyber security, Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act, Esports, EdTech Roundtable discussion, breakout sessions featuring our Platinum Sponsors and a social/awards reception with a live interactive demonstration from T.E.S.T Inc. OPI renewal credits will be available during the conference. This is a great learning opportunity for staff involved in school technology.

Follow this link to register:

[METAtechED Conference Registration](#)

- **Public Education Day and MASS Spring Conference: March 13 - 14, Helena**

Registration is open for the 2023 Public Education Day (March 13th) and MASS Spring Conference (March 14th). Watch for agendas coming soon.

Follow the links to register for the events (You must register for each event separately):

- [MASS Spring Conference Registration](#) Delta Colonial, Helena
- [Public Education Day Registration](#) MTSBA and Capitol

Contact the hotel directly at 406-443-2100 to receive a room under the 2023 META/MASS room block or click [HERE](#).

Additional rooms are available at the Helena Downtown DoubleTree by calling 406-443-2200 or click [HERE](#). The room block name is MASS/META Conference.

Congratulations, MAEMSP and MASSP Award Winners

The [Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\)](#) and its 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 various aspects of digital learning transformations.

EmpowerED Superintendent Leader Panel Broadcast

The EmpowerED Superintendent Leader Panel broadcast series is sponsored by ClassLink -- in its fifth season. Each monthly broadcast is co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net. Participants can earn continuing education (CE) credits by viewing the live or recorded broadcast. To learn more about CE credits, visit this [webpage](#).

Upcoming February edLeader Panel Broadcast:

The next installment of the EmpowerED Superintendent Leader Panel Broadcast airs on Monday, February 20, 2023, at 3:00 pm Mountain Time. The focus in February is on **Addressing Technology's Diversity and Inclusion Through District Policies, Practices, and Personnel**. The edLeader Panel broadcast, Dr. Lyndee Polyak, Superintendent, Leyden School District 212 (IL); Dr. Amy Williams, Superintendent, North Central Schools (LA); Dr. Kristi Wilsch, Superintendent, Buckeye Elementary School District (AZ); and Diana Doersch, Senior Director of Instructional Technology at Digital Promise, will be the incoming chair of the CoSN Board. We invite you to engage in a discussion around how we can not only ensure equitable and effective uses of technology for

MAEMSP and MASSP Awards were presented on Monday, January 23 during the Montana Principals Conference. Congratulations to all award winners.

- *MASSP Awards*
 - **MASSP/NAESP National Principal of the Year:** Cammie Knapp, Corvallis High School
 - **MASSP/NAESP Assistant Principal of the Year:** Tami Faulkner, Great Falls High School
 - **MASSP Future Administrator Scholarship:** Matt Cornelius, Choteau High School
 - **MASSP Community Partner in Education:** Steve Ford, Pepsi of Great Falls
- *MAEMSP Awards*
 - **MAEMSP/NAESP National Distinguished Principal:** Kim Marzolf, Morningside Elementary, Great Falls Public Schools
 - **NAESP Conference Incentive Award:** Heather Dunn, Principal, Eureka Elementary
 - **MAEMSP Aspiring Principal Scholarship Award:** Teresa Weems, Lolo School District

Members were also recognized for the MAEMSP and MASSP Years of Membership and well as for SAM Years of Service. Congratulations to all!

SAM Youth Endowment Nomination Deadline March 3

Nominations are open until March 3 for the 2022-23 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.

students and families in their districts but also how to promote diversity within district teams to better represent all communities they serve. Free registration for the February edLeader Panel Broadcast is available [HERE](#).

January 9, 2023 edLeader Panel Broadcast Recording:

The most recent broadcast of AASA EmpowerED Superintendent Panel Series, ***Leveling the Playing Field: Technology Tools to Promote Equitable Learning Opportunities for ALL Students***, aired on January 9, 2023, at 3:00 pm Central Time. In this edLeader Panel Series, two leading-edge superintendents, Baron R. Davis, Superintendent of Richland School District Two, Columbia, South Carolina and Jennifer Enfield, Superintendent for the Redwood County School District in Redwood County, Minnesota, joined in an interactive discussion with Cynthia Curry, CAST Director of Technical Assistance. Together they shared the strategies they use to successfully lead accessibility within a school district. Multiple resources were provided for participants to access and leverage within their own school settings. Welcome to access the free January 9, 2023 EmpowerED Superintendent Panel Recording or download version [HERE](#).

Upcoming National Conference

AASA NCE 2023 Conference CoSN is looking forward to participating in the AASA NCE 2023 Conference in San Antonio, Texas, February 20-23, 2023 (<https://nce.aasa.org>). Members of the CoSN team are currently identifying Superintendents who serve on the CoSN/AASA EmpowerED

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 2022-23 SAM Youth Endowment Nomination Form can be found [HERE](#).

Please note: submissions must be made by a current SAM member.

Superintendents Advisory Panel presenting workshops and presentations throughout AAAS 2023. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

CoSN 2023 Conference

CoSN's 2023 Annual Conference taking place in Austin, Texas on 20-23, 2023

<https://www.cosn.org/co>

The theme of this year's CoSN Conference is "Reimagine. Re-Renew." Multiple sessions for leaders are included in the program including panel presentation members of the CoSN/AASA EmpowerED Superintendent Panel. Hope to see you in Austin March.

CoSN Membership:

If you, your school or district more information about joining please contact membership@

Tech Corner - Paycheck Scan Alert

This year, we will periodically feature this new *Tech Corner* feature newsletter.

Jeff Patterson and his team at Montana

k12mt.com) want to get a word warning out: **Montana clerks being targeted** by a very sophisticated attack that steals employees' information. Through electronic communication

social engineering, **attackers**
been successfully tricking cle
the state and **stealing emplo**
paychecks!

Please [read this short article](#)
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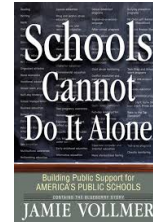
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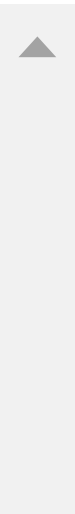
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Phone: (406)442-2510 Fax: (406)442-2518



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