

MASS Board of Directors Meeting

Executive Director Update

March 12, 2017



Hi MASS Board members! Below is a brief update of SAM and MASS activities for your review. Please contact me if you have questions.

The [MASS Strategic Plan](#) for 2015-18 was reviewed, updated and approved by the MASS membership on September 15, 2015. A discussion of progress on this plan will be part of the agenda for the MASS Board meeting.

1. Review of SAM Strategic Plan

- Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 2nd Quarter 2016-17 is on the Strategic Plan webpage for reference – click [HERE](#) to review. Working on the 3rd Quarter (ending March 31) update which shows progress on all three goal areas incorporating the [SAM Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives using Knowledge-Based Questions](#) work accomplished by the SAM Board during the October meeting.

2. Review of Financials

- [MASS Financial Report FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 as of 3-1-17 with Proposed FY 17-18 Budget](#) discussion will take place at the Board meeting.
- The SAM Investment/Finance Committee, at their meeting on January 13, 2017, approved using a Managed Fund Portfolio (MPF) program with D.A. Davidson for all investments of SAM and affiliates. This approval allows SAM's investments to meet the investment criteria established in the SAM Investment/Finance policy, creating a balanced 60% Equity/40% Fixed Ratio investment strategy. As of February 22, 2017 all of SAM current investments have moved into the MPF and are being adjusted to meet this ratio. This policy driven change will maximize the market advantages for funds invested by SAM, MASS, MASSP and MAEMSP, and also for future affiliates who meet the investment policy criteria.
- SAM's 2015-16 Financial Review has been completed by Anderson ZurMuehlen. The review indicates there are "no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements". We will discuss the Financial Review at the meeting.

3. SAM Office Update

- The SAM office structure is working well. The abilities of Pat Audet, Gary Wagner and Kim Scofield (half-time) are valuable to our work for all Affiliates.
- New accountant, YH Advisors (Brian Yacker, Partner), are working well with support for payroll, bookkeeping, and tax completion services – this assists with our financial operation and with internal controls important to the viability of our finances. Following Board review of the 2015-16 Financial Review, YH Advisors will complete the 2016 Tax 990's for SAM and MASS.
- SAM is ready to convert to new association management software (MemberClicks) on April 1. This will upgrade our website, database and tools that can be used by all SAM members.
- Click [HERE](#) for a review the new SAM Website, and tools that will be available on April 1.

4. Montana Unified Schools Trust ([MUST](#)) Update
 - SAM is represented on the MUST Board by Brad Moore (Vice President and Superintendent at Big Sandy), Eldon (Chad) Johnson (Superintendent at Twin Bridges), and new SAM appointee Ken Taylor (Superintendent at Froid).
 - SAM Executive Director, Kirk Miller serves with Lance Melton (MTSBA) and Eric Feaver (MEA-MFT) on the board of the Montana School Services Foundation (MSSF), the governing board for MUST and the staff who work for the trust.
 - Further update on the status of MUST will be provided at the meeting.

5. Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) Update
 - An update of the status of MQEC will be provided at the meeting. Click [HERE](#) to go to the MQEC website.
 - MQEC has been a key organization in developing strategies for [RISE4MT](#) recruitment and retention of quality educator's movement.
 - MQEC is a key organization in the protection of Montana's Constitutional intent during the implementation of SB 410 Tuition Tax Credit bill and the resulting legal challenges that have been filed.
 - The MQEC Board of Directors consisting of several SAM member superintendents and associations are currently reviewing the District and Federal court rulings and preparing for appropriate action to protect the education provisions of the Montana Constitution as applied to the implementation of SB 410. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

6. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership Update
 - Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools.
 - Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
 - Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana's children!
 - Active participation by SAM members in research and implementation of issues impacting education – [Montana ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#), [HB 374 Suicide Prevention Workgroup](#), Special Ed Coop Funding Task Force, Content Standards Committees, Montana Early Childhood Education, [Chapter 57 flexibility in educator licensure review](#), AdvancED accreditation, and others.
 - Cooperating with partners in the development of – [RISE4MT](#) educator recruitment and retention effort, [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), [Montana Educator Performance Appraisal System \(EPAS\)](#), [EducationSuperHighway](#) Broadband Access Initiative, Montana K-12 Connectivity Workgroup, [Montana Farm 2 School](#) Task Force, [Montana Afterschool Alliance](#) Steering Council, Montana Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Workgroup, Montana CSPD Stakeholder Group.

7. Professional Learning and Services Update
 - Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
 - SAM 21st Century Leadership Institute and Mentor Programs are aligned to form the [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program \(LPLP\)](#), expanding professional learning opportunities for 34 Montana administrators in 2016-17. Review progress at [SAM LPLP 2016-17 Mid Year Executive Summary](#).
 - [#SAMedchat](#) – weekly Twitter chat group on Thursdays, 7-8 pm. Please feel free to join in!
 - [SAM website](#) - a one stop repository for member resources. Social media resources.

- SAM annually assists in the operation of 13 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the [Conferences](#) tab on the website.
- SAM is implementing new association management software, upgrading website and tools for members. Click [HERE](#) for a review the new SAM Website, coming soon.
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, SAM Bulletin and weekly SAM Updates, colleague networks, state and federal advocacy networks, legal assistance, professional liability insurance, technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions, use of social media to communicate effectively, many more...
- [MCEL 2016 – GREAT IV](#) (see the video by clicking [HERE](#)) was released and many learning opportunities for all education leaders occurred at MCEL 2016 on October 19-21, 2016. Plans to renew and develop an outstanding MCEL 2017 (October 18-20, 2017) are underway. The venue is moved to downtown Billings at the Northern Hotel and Double Tree Hotel. Innovative technology and general session speakers will invigorate and motivate our Montana education leaders!
- [SAM Administrators Institute](#) provided great learning opportunities for our entire membership – theme for [SAM AI 2016](#) was “Leadership of Transformation Change for the Whole Child”! SAM AI 2017 will feature Dr. Bill Daggett (August 1) returning to continue the great dialogue with school district teams of administrators and teachers to emphasize transformational change!
- [SAM Membership 2016-17 as of 3-7-17](#) shows 1017 members, a new record, with each affiliate increasing!
- META has successfully developed a national affiliation with the Consortium of School Networks (CoSN). A Montana CoSN State Chapter has been formed, presided over by a META CoSN Council (made up of the META Board) with META regions as the structure for the Chapter. Click [HERE](#) to review to learn more about the Chapter. The formation of the Montana CoSN State Chapter permits any SAM member whose META member has joined the Chapter to become a member also, allowing access to the full slate of resources and benefits that CoSN has established.
- Request support of Superintendents to allow for central office personnel, principals, special education directors, and technologists to become members of their SAM affiliate and promote participation in professional learning opportunities through SAM.

8. Advocacy Update

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center ([MT-PEC](#)) creating a positive impact and strong voice on education policy issues.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor’s office, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) has developed a long range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level (DA Steering Committee, SAM Legislative Network). Delegate Assembly met on June 16-17, 2016 creating recommendations.
- Working closely with the K-12 Vision Group and MT-PEC to establish areas of focus for the 2017 legislative session and education advocacy issues.
- [SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions Approved 10-20-16](#) by the SAM membership:
 - Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (Recruiting Incredible School Educators [Rise4Montana](#)). Emphasis on public school health insurance costs

- Oppose Privatization with Public Funds
 - Support [Special Education Funding Adequacy and Equity](#). [MCASE Advocacy Talking Points](#).
 - Support Capital Facilities/Technology Infrastructure Needs
 - [2017 Legislative Session](#) webpage provides SAM members with all of the resources developed by SAM to assist in advocacy during the legislative session. A review of progress will take place at the Board meeting.
 - SAM members' leadership and participation in the development of the [MT ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#) for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a high priority - 18 of the 38 [stakeholders](#) are SAM members. Stakeholder meetings – May 25-26, September 26, October 24, and November 10 developed a [Draft Plan](#), collected public comment leading to the [Final Plan](#) which was sent to USED on 12/28/16. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen has informed the Stakeholder Council, that the Montana Plan awaits review of the US Department of Education and changes to ESSA rules being enacted by the Trump administration. The Superintendent indicated that she will inform the Stakeholder Council of changes as they occur.
 - SAM is working closely with partners in the education community on challenges in the implementation of the SB 410 Tuition Tax Credit bill (2015 legislative session) in association with the [MQEC](#).
 - [Federal advocacy](#) for the implementation of ESSA, support of the increased funding of IDEA, led the charge with Montana's congressional delegation and national associations to request USED address the burden created in completing the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) biannual report, E-Rate and Broadband access for schools, and the REST Act and NEST Act rural educator recruitment legislation.
9. Business Partnerships Update – continued development of non-dues revenue by expanding our business sponsorships is important to the future of SAM
- Click [HERE](#) to review the current status of SAM's business partnerships.
 - SAM LPLP 2016-17 continues to seek investors in support of expanding this program to offer all SAM members opportunities to benefit from the LPLP at a minimal cost.
 - Our office is working to retain the current business partnerships we have established and develop consistency in the agreements made with all business partners based on their level of partnership and clarity of benefits provided when the partnership with SAM is established.
10. Other
- The [SAM Needs Assessment 2017 Executive Summary](#) was presented to the SAM Board on January 13, 2017 for consideration of developing programs and conferences into the future.
 - Developing the SAM LPLP 2017-18 (LPLP 3.0) is underway pending the decisions of the SAM Board to continue the program. The new SAM LPLP Resource Center and program access will be a state of the art professional learning delivery system personalized to meet the needs of Montana administrators. Significant energy and time are being invested to generate funding and prepare to launch SAM LPLP 2017-18.

Thank you MASS Board members for your leadership of our association and the schools you serve!

Respectfully submitted,



SAM Executive Director