

# MASS Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, September 17, 2017

6:00 pm

Hilton Garden Inn, Bozeman

## MINUTES

- Present:* Tobin Novasio (President Elect) Renee Rasmussen (Northeast), Nate Olson (Southeast), Teri Harris (South Central), Bart Hawkins (Hi-Line), Mike Perry (Western), Annette Hart (Central), Loren Dunk (North Central), Scott Chauvet (4 Rivers), Rick Duncan (Federal Relations), Kirk Miller (SAM Executive Director), Pat Audet (SAM Associate Director)
- Absent:* Laurie Barron (Past President), Cal Ketchum (President-Elect), Heather Davis-Schmidt (North West)
- Guests:* Siri Smillie, Governor's Office; Linda & Johnny from the Governor's No Kid Hungry program
- Call to Order:* The meeting was called to order by President Tobin Novasio at 6:06 pm. He brings attention with thoughts and prayers for the Northwest Schools – Flathead Valley, due to the cyber threats being experienced in the valley. He then introduces Siri Smillie of the Governor's Office.
- Introductions:*
- Mega Issue:* *Mega Issue: Governor's Planning for PK-12 Education 2017 and Beyond – Governor's Education Policy Adviser, Siri Smillie* – Siri opened with describing the revenue shortfall, fire control expenditure, etc. The governor is asking the state agencies to reach into their budgets and cut up to 10% - need to make up \$270 million shortfall and not call a specials session. This request is outlined in MCA 17-7-140.
- Siri also mentioned the MT ESSA Plan and how the Governor does agree with the plan proposed and that OPI has been transparent and cooperative with schools and the state in implementing this proposal.
  - She then described the STARS Preschool Program and the application process. There were a great number of apps in which 17 were chosen which included 8 private schools. The Governor's Office will be tracking data so that they are at the ready for legislative action for next session. Kirk pulled up the list of grant awardees on the website. Total amount of the grant is \$3 million.
  - Siri then reported on the Broadband efforts in the state and working with ESH including leveraging Erate funding. - gains from 70% to 94% of schools that now have high speed internet access. HB 390 was a very important bill that allowed \$2 million toward broadband expansion where the FCC would match to leverage up to \$20 million. This is now available for application/grant through the Department of Commerce (DOC). It will

take connecting with the schools Erate consultant and/or ESH. (Erate consultants need to be on the list of DOC providers).

- She talked about dual enrollment and work based experiences for students. The question being answered is how the state will meet that demand for needs and replacement in the workforce.
- Siri opened the floor for questions. Rick Duncan asked about the shortfall and at the possibility of a special session. The Governor feels that there is not an interest to call them back unless they are interested in looking at revenue enhancers. The school base aid funding is safe from the 10% cuts. The OPI recommendation is now on the Governor's desk (MT-PEC advised). This amounts to an approximate \$3 million cut from Combined Fund Block Grants. The legislative finance committee will be looking at this next. All information is on the Governor's office website and is also updated on the SAM '[Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#)' webpage
- Linda and Johnny presented the No Kid Hungry program – Governor's Program. They went through a power point and showed the statistics and the basis of the program and how important it is – 1 in 5 kids do not know when they are going to get their next meal. Linda described her background and why she is passionate about this program in MT. She described the Breakfast after the Bell Program – a huge response to this with more kids being fed. There is a lot of flexibility on how these grants can be utilized to get these programs off the ground. Linda described the fiscal benefits of implementing a Breakfast in the Classroom program. She encouraged the school districts to apply for these grants.
- Johnny Pena (AmeriCorps) described his background to the board and how his passion was built for working with hunger programs – personal experience with hunger. He told his story of what it is like to be hungry and how this has been passed on through his passion of working closely with this program in the state of MT. This [presentation](#) has been place on the [MASS Board Meeting](#) webpage. Board members described how they have participated in the program.

*Deletions/  
Additions:*

None

*Approval  
of Minutes*

March 12, 2017 Minutes

**Motion by Loren Dunk; Seconded Bart Hawkins**

**Vote: Motion passed unanimously.**

*President's Report*

Tobin Novasio mentioned the changes of the MASS conference – Kirk then described the specific changes that will be implemented on Monday; due to cross communication with Denny Dearden – Leslie Finnan will move from the 1:30 pm spot to the 10:20 spot in the morning. A request is in to Rob Watson for presenting at 1:30. Mike Perry mentioned about having a round table with the superintendents and special education directors – possibility.

Tobin Novasio brought up the website ADA requirements and what META discussed (shared by Kirk Miller). Scott Chauvet described what personal experiences Manhattan has gone through with this issue. Nate Olson described what Miles City has just gone through in revising their website – however, after the fact, Miles City found out that the revision must be done by an OCR certified web manager for OCR to sign off on an ADA compliant website. Kirk went through more of the notes of the META Board input to this situation. It is an MTSBA recommended policy 4350 but not mandated. Internet2 is a possibility to resolve these issues – private internet use but you would not have access to certain things. Many districts have tabled their approval of policy 4350. META will be putting this on their January agenda for more discussion. There are no solutions at this time. Scott will send Kirk contact info for Beth O’Halloran, attorney working with Manhattan.

b. MASS School Board of the Year Award – Tobin mentioned the process that there were many applicants from big and small school districts.

c. MCEL Conference – Tobin described the changes in the MCEL venue and what is going on in certain places downtown Billings. Kirk described the Wednesday offering on the Innovative Virtual Learning Experience. Board members were excited to hear of these changes and that keynotes will be in the Alberta Theater with none of the exhibitor side conversations and noise going on.

d. AASA National Conference on Education – Tobin mentioned the location of the AASA NCE conference will be in Nashville - February 15-17, 2018. Rick mentioned the positive advantage of networking with individuals that are going through similar situations as MT. Tobin also described the advantages of attendance.

e. MASS Spring Conference – Tobin described the continuing the home grown nature of the spring conference. He is taking suggestions for presenters. Annette mentioned the new superintendent in Roy and what he could offer. Bart mentioned the OPI presentations and predicting ACT scores, etc. Kirk described the venue options for MASS Spring Conference– Great Northern or Radisson Colonial. The board elected to have their conference with META at the Radisson Colonial.

f. Membership

- 185 Current Paid Members for MASS (194 at this time last year)
- 891 total paid SAM members (945 total SAM members at this time last year)
- 1020 total for SAM membership last year for 16-17

g. Updates – Kirk described the situation impacting Flathead schools – cyberterrorism attack on schools in the Flathead Valley. Kirk stated that SAM is working to get resources to assist staff in the schools as they are scheduled to come back on tomorrow (Monday, 9/18/17). He kept specific items confidential.

*President-Elect*

Tobin (in Place of Cal) reported on the process of the AASA conference Incentive Award. There were 5 applicants – winners will be announced tomorrow at the luncheon.

*Regional Reports*

**Northeast Region:** Renee Rasmussen talked about recruitment/retention and the problems that they are having in the Southeast. Speech Path and OTI are hard to find and hire – some of that has been an online source. They wonder what is being done at the BPE level. Bus adjustments and retro fit requirements are another situation. Pat pointed out the MCASE Recruitment and Enrollment Project with Lori Ruffier. Some board members did not realize that this program existed.

**Hi-Line Region:** Bart Hawkins reported on the funding and that there was a lot of anger about what happened that the legislative level and how the burden was moved to the local taxpayer. Bart described how they have been very connected to the community and how this situation cause harm. The word has been going out to the community about the responsibility of the legislators and not the local school district. He did mention that he felt better in getting tax shifts in language during delegate assembly. He appreciated the analysis of this during delegate assembly. He mentioned that the OPI licensure officer is doing good work.

**Southeast Region:** Nate Olson described the high needs autistic situations in their area. The area concern is how there is improper interaction and that situations are very dependent on what happens per case where teachers are assaulted. What is the remedy and what can be done? Pediatric Services is one answer to enlist services to deal with and pay for one on one aides. Another concern is the survival of the SPED cooperative in their area and how the coop is underfunded and the difficulty in hiring personnel for the SPED Coop. Rick Duncan described the shortfall that their coop is experiencing and how the coop structure is looking at major changes. Bart Hawkins described the Hutterite Center is taking their schools out of the district but still need to be serviced by the school district at district expense. Does coops bill service through Medicaid? Rick mentioned that they bill their services for Medicaid through SWSS. Annette Hart mentioned Central MT Resources also.

**South Central Region:** Teri Harris reported about planning their first meeting in the SC. They have discussed talking about meeting with county supts. They would like to have Karen come in and talk about 504 and SPED. She also mentioned getting someone in on the suicide training – Nate Olson mentioned Jason DeShaw. She also mentioned the bus cross-arms and the requirements. Teri discussed the teacher recruitment problems and they are working with Troops to Teachers and emergency licensing.

**4 Rivers Region:** Scott Chauvet reported on the issues that will be at future 4 Rivers presentations- cost of health insurance. He also will be inviting legislators to the meetings. Tim Norbeck will be giving MHSA reports. He also stated that they will be having meetings in Helena to do tours in OPI, legislative and non-legislative years.

**Central Region:** Annette Hart reported that they had the school psych come and present on the suicide and she offered a flow chart on response. There are a collection of presenters and resources in central MT – DPHHS – Karl Roston is really good. They are having a problem getting bus drivers trained. Randy Millbrook is coming to talk to group – Homeland Security – he will talk about school safety plans and how effective. Chinook and Havre have done ALICE Training for school safety and had great results.

**North Central Region:** Loren Dunk reported on about Dennis Parman presenting and doing a great job. He also mentioned the problems about bus cross arms. There was a complaint on new OPI website. LPCs in the coops and the roadblocks. They discussed the mental health issues. Loren described the new superintendents in the region. He stated that their coop is prospering. Power had a safety demo with fire on a bus.

**Western Region:** Mike Perry described the situation that they faced with fires. Many schools were dealing with missed days of school – Seeley High School. Lockwood put end dates of on Teachers contracts – renegotiate? Transportation funds? There have been many complaints on the new OPI Website – hard to navigate and search. There are many concerns about personnel changes in OPI. Bea Kaleva did a presentation on 504 and SPED and the correct ways to implement these services. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Bea is doing a webinar on 504 – Mike will send the information to SAM and other board members. Tobin mentioned that there is another SPED conference on October 4-5. Mike mentioned that there are several reservations in their area and suicides on the rise. They are trying to get information network to when these are occur and schools can be better prepared. It is good to be able to talk to others that have been through he experiences. MSGIA Safe Schools has more info on the two hour trainings.

**Northwest Region:** Heather Davis-Schmidt (absent)

*Federal Relations*

Rick Duncan described the federal advocacy components priorities that are on the SAM website. He described that the meeting with Sen. Daines was very good this year as compared to other years. Sen. Tester is always great to work with and share info. Discussions on Medicaid and IDEA were held with each Senator. Tester talked about getting 12.5% increase for IDEA per year to get to 40%. Tester actually used language that the MT delegates used with him in the Appropriations Committee. Tester talked about OCR, Title II, REAP, Perkins etc.

*Delegate Assembly  
Steering Committee  
Report*

Rick Duncan, Delegate Assembly Steering Committee Chairman described the delegate assembly process very distinctly and what is involved in this process. There were no new positions or resolutions but there were on current positions and resolutions on the last Delegate Assembly last June. There will be a call for new resolutions and they will be due mid-April. Rick went through the 17-18 priorities that stem from resolutions that require action. He described the efforts of the delegate assembly result in the charge to the SAM office for what to oppose,

support, etc. A great discussion ensued about members keeping communication with their DA representative within their region about resolutions.

*Executive Director* Kirk Miller described where the latest information on the issues are on the SAM website – [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#). He then described the recommendations of the MT-PEC to OPI and that the state superintendent accepted the input used them as the OPI recommendations.

Kirk also reminded the board of the MASSP/MAEMSP combined conference in April. This was supported by the board. Some board members would like to attend.

He also reminded directors to send their agendas and minutes to Kim to get these populated on the website. Kirk described the UberConference connect option anytime for SAM office to participate if needed in region meetings. This info is on the MASS Regional Information page on the SAM web page. He also reminded the MASS board that META region directors would like to attend the MASS region meetings if at all possible.

*Old Business:* None

*New Business:* None

*What's on your Mind:* There were more questions on what is going on in the Flathead Valley. The administration is making contact with the national agents that are experts in this area. Staff are back in school tomorrow (Monday, 9/18/17) for gathering info and strategy; students will be back in session on Tuesday with high police presence.

**Adjourned at 9:08 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Audet  
Associate Director