

# SAM Board of Directors

## Executive Director Update

January 13, 2017

SAM Board Meeting



We have met our membership goal of 1000+ and SAM continues to show great progress in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2016-17. Below is an update for your review. Please contact me if you have questions.

### 1. Review of Strategic Plan

- Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016-17 is on the Strategic Plan webpage for reference – click [HERE](#) to review.
- The Mega Issue work at the SAM Board meeting on October 19, 2017 to Review the [SAM Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives using Knowledge-Based Questions](#) provided great input into the review and revision of the SAM Strategic Plan.

### 2. Review of Financials – will be a report of the SAM Investment/Finance Committee, newly formed by the SAM Investment/Finance Policy approved by the SAM Board in June 2016.

- SAM Financial Report FY 15-16 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 16-17
- SAM Affiliates Financial Reports FY 15-16 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 16-17

### 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.
- SAM is implementing new association management software (MemberClicks) in the coming months which will upgrade our website, database and tools that can be used by all SAM members.
- Click [HERE](#) for a review the new SAM Website, coming soon.

### 4. Montana Unified Schools Trust ([MUST](#)) Update

- SAM is represented on the MUST Board by Brad Moore (Vice President and Superintendent at Big Sandy), Tim Tharp (Superintendent at Hobson), and new SAM appointee Eldon (Chad) Johnson (Superintendent at Twin Bridges).
- 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.
- The MSSF Board was fortunate to select Andy Holmlund as its new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and concurrently worked with Andy in selecting Jeaneen Campbell for a newly-created role of Vice President of Operations.
- An update of the status of MUST will be provided at the meeting.
- Tim Tharp has accepted a new position in the office of the State Superintendent and has resigned his position on the MUST Board of Directors. [SAM Policy](#) (p. 20) for selecting a new SAM representative for the MUST Board has been put into action and a recommendation for appointment by the SAM Board will take place at the SAM Board 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2015-16 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 III](#) publication was followed by [GREAT IV](#) (see the video by clicking [HERE](#)) and many learning opportunities for all education leaders at MCEL on October 19-21, 2016.
- [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 returning to continue the great dialogue with school district teams of administrators and teachers to emphasize transformational change!
- [SAM 2015-16 Membership Report](#) was 987, a record. Great work affiliate leaders! [SAM Membership Report 2016-17 Quarter 2](#) shows 1008 members so far, 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 and will be 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 startup (launch) of the Chapter is underway. 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 SAM Board Members 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
- SAM members’ leadership and participation in the development of the [MT ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#) for implementation of the Every Students 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.

- 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](#).
  - [School Funding Interim Commission \(SFIC\)](#) – Communicated with Commission members offering support for accomplishing their charge. Met on September 23, 2015 adopting a work plan that included the SAM and MT-PEC priorities. Meetings held on January 11-13, April 4-5, May 3-5, and June 13 continued focus on 1) Recruitment/Retention, 2) District Structure & Equity, 3) Facilities, and 4) Special Ed Funding. Final meeting on August 29 approved a [final report](#) which SAM and MT-PEC acknowledged but indicated that the report falls short of adequacy and equity to develop the full potential of every child through the basic system of elementary and secondary schools.
  - [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 through the Mentor Program or 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Institute 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
- SAM Needs Assessment 2017 Executive Summary for review of the Board at the meeting.
  - Dan Kimzey appointed to the HS Principal Position on the Variances to Standards Review Board (term through 2018) joining SAM members Fred Anderson (Elementary Principal Position) and Tony Kloker (Superintendent Position). Thank you to Paul Furthmyre whose term has recently come to an end serving on this Board.

Thanks for reviewing this report SAM Board members. We are making great progress on our strategic plan because of your commitment to go above and beyond serving your profession through SAM! Your leadership and commitment to your professional organization is greatly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,



SAM Executive Director