

SAM Board of Directors

Executive Director Update

June 15, 2017

SAM Board Meeting



Wow 2016-17 has been a great year of accomplishment for SAM members! We continue to make significant progress guided by the SAM Strategic Plan. Thanks for your leadership of SAM. Please contact me if you have questions about this update.

1. Review of Strategic Plan

- Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 4th Quarter 2016-17 is on the Strategic Plan webpage for reference – click [HERE](#) to review.

2. Review of Financials – will be a report of the SAM Investment/Finance Committee.

- [SAM Financial Report FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 as of 6-5-17 with Proposed FY 17-18 Budget](#) review will occur at the meeting. The Board will take action to adopt an FY 17-18 Budget.
- Per SAM Investment/Finance Committee approval, 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.
- Taxes for 2015 have been filed with the IRS – [SAM 990](#) and [MASS 990EZ](#). The SAM Board received notification prior to filing for your review.

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 converted to new association management software (MemberClicks) on April 3. This will upgrade our website, database and tools that can be used by all SAM members. SAM's new association management software (MemberClicks) allows establishment of ‘Communities’ (Committee and Groups – technically) for affiliate and topical discussions. Use of the ‘Communities’ is planned for fall 2017 to enhance the ability of our members to communicate topics of importance to their work.
- Click [HERE](#) for a review the new SAM Website, and tools that went live on April 3.
- Click [HERE](#) to review the SAM Membership Drive 2017-18 that launched on April 3.

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 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. Recent developments in the legal challenges have occurred and an update will be given at the meeting.
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 Revised 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. Final progress can be reviewed at [SAM LPLP 2016-17 Executive Summary](#) (under construction).
 - [SAM LPLP 2017-18](#) is ready, with new strategies to encourage Montana administrators to use this personalized professional learning. The SAM LPLP 2016-17 Executive Summary is being prepared to keep the data on year 4 of the program.
 - Further outreach to the Montana University System led to a Title II grant partnership between the MSU Education Department and SAM LPLP to provide induction and coach/mentoring to MSU graduates of the Educational Leadership Program working in Montana districts throughout the state. The analysis of data collected will be enhanced by the grant. The grant will serve as a model example of continued expansion of personalized learning for all Montana administrators.

- [#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 12 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](#) to review the new SAM Website. Coming soon will be affiliate ‘communities’ (blogs) and professional learning networks.
- 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...
- Plans are complete to renew and develop an outstanding [MCEL 2017](#) (October 18-20, 2017). 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 2017](#), “Leadership of Transformational Change & Personalized Learning to Impact the Whole Child”, is ready for providing great learning opportunities for our entire membership. [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 Quarter 4](#) shows 1019 members, a new record, with each affiliate membership showing an increase! The membership drive for 2017-18 began on April 3, 2017 using the power of the new MemberClicks association management software. The [SAM Membership Information](#) webpage describes this work in detail. We have received 362 membership renewals paid for 2017-18 as of June 5, 2017 and will update you at the meeting.
- 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 continued 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 2017 Legislative Session](#) web page provides information about the legislative session. The [SAM 2017 Legislative Session Summary](#) describes the overview of progress accomplished during the session. [SAM’s Legislative Network 2017](#) web page provides extensive details of the work of the 85 SAM members who served on the SAMLN17 and progress throughout the session. [SAM](#)

[Bills 2017](#) describes the progress of all bills followed by SAM during the session including the [SAM Bills Status by Priority Final Report](#).

- The [SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee](#) continued their work to provide oversight to advocacy efforts of SAM and to prepare for SAM Delegate Assembly 2017. The committee met on May 11, 2017 and again on June 9, 2017.
 - [SAM Delegate Assembly 2017](#) is prepared to review SAM's advocacy priorities, positions and resolutions on June 15-16, 2017. [SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions Approved 10-20-16](#) by the SAM membership will be reviewed along with other positions and resolutions submitted.
 - 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 were 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 being submitted to USED on 12/28/16. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen informed the Stakeholder Council, that the Montana Plan is under revision and the process used can be found on the [OPI ESSA](#) webpage. SAM members continue to provide input for the MT ESSA Plan, which is undergoing revisions facilitated by the Office of Public Instruction. The timeline for the redeveloped draft plan to go to the public for input is July 12, 2017 with draft to the Governor for review on August 11, 2017 and submission of the MT ESSA Plan to the USED by September 4, 2017 for peer review.
 - 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 Issues](#) (can be reviewed on the SAM website) related to the proposed FY 18 federal budget, the impact of proposed changes to the Health Care Act on Montana schools, and ESSA planning for Montana have been a focus during this year and 4th quarter.
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.
 - 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. SAM has established 5 new business partnerships in 2016-17.
 - SAM is seeking support of the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program to make this program sustainable and reasonably priced for SAM member administrator's to join this personalized learning program.

Thanks for your leadership by serving on the SAM Board of Directors. Your commitment to go 'above and beyond' serving your profession through SAM is creating stronger schools for our children in Montana!

Respectfully submitted,



SAM Executive Director