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VOLUME XXXIX

February 2017

NO. 260

Advocating for Public Education

by Laurie Barron, MASS President

It's a new year with a new legislative session and a new superintendent for the Montana Office of Public Instruction. What can we expect as public educators in Montana?

I recently had the opportunity to interview reelected Governor Steve Bullock and newly elected Superintendent Elsie Arntzen about their thoughts on public education in Montana, both of whom pledged their support for Montana's public schools. These interviews reminded of how fortunate we are in Montana to have access to our elected officials, and I truly appreciate the time each of them took to speak with me personally about public education in Montana.

I asked each of them the same five questions. Those questions and their answers are summarized below.

1. What is your most rewarding aspect of working to support and promote public education?

It was immediately clear in speaking with both Governor Bullock and Superintendent Arntzen that both are very proud to be a part of public education in Montana.

Governor Bullock is personally proud of seeing his own children "thrive in the same schools my wife and I attended" and finds it professionally rewarding to see the "innovation that is occurring with quality teachers, administrators, and staff to give students opportunities to succeed in all areas of the state."

Similarly, Superintendent Arntzen says her reward comes from spending 23 years as a class-room teacher and seeing "the light go on" and realizing the student "gets it." She is especially excited about helping take education "from an intimate moment in the classroom to a much larger scale where this happens in all of Montana's classrooms."

2. What is your primary goal regarding public education for the legislative session?

When discussing the topic of what was most important for public education in the legislative session, both were quick to discuss funding.

Superintendent Arntzen immediately noted that her primary goal is for the "stability of schools" and that she hopes to have the largest budgetary item (the inflationary increase) heard and passed early in the session, allowing districts to have "stability when district budgets are being formulated before the end of February."

Governor Bullock, too, indicated the importance of investing in public education, noting that "public education is the great equalizer. Education is not a Democrat or Republican issue or about battles in Helena. No matter where you are in the state, education is important." In that light, the Governor is hopeful that the legislature will invest in K-12 infrastructure, preschool, the Quality Schools Grant, and broadband for schools.

continued on Page 2...





MASS President's Message Continued...

3. What do you think will be the biggest challenge facing public education in the legislative session?

While both the Governor and Superintendent both have high hopes for education funding in this session, they both also see funding as the biggest challenge facing public education in the Capitol.

Governor Bullock sees challenges in "how to best allocate money in a session where money is a little tighter than in previous sessions" but also is quick to point out that "Montanans value public education." He optimistically reminded me that "our greatest challenge may be our greatest opportunity," and he is hopeful that Montana with join the other 45 states that have "made an investment in early childhood education."

Also recognizing the financial belt tightening across the state, Superintendent Arntzen is concerned that "there have been so many 'asks,' both financial as well as with more flexibility, and wanting to get this all accomplished in 90 days when revenues may not be as robust as we like" will be difficult. Ensuring "schools are prioritized" and remaining focused on Putting Montana Students First! will be her focus, regardless of challenges.

4. In preparing your agenda related to education for the legislative session, what supports do you believe are most critical?

Superintendent Arntzen emphasized that it is critical that, with 72% of students housed in seven large districts, "we understand that we have more than 400 districts across the state in rural and frontier regions across Montana," so there must be "a balance between rural school districts and urban school districts." As a longtime teacher and with 12 years of experience as a legislator, she is focused on "making sure Montana students come first, regardless of what community or town they reside in."

The message from Governor Bullock is clear: "We need the educational community coming together." While he is very proud of the increases seen in the education budget over the last four years, he would still "like to do more" for public education. Of vital importance is having "superintendents, principals, teachers, staff, parents, and the business community, as well as bi-partisan support from the legislature, to all come together to support education," particularly with funding for preschool for our youngest learners.

5. In May, following the legislative session, what do you believe are the most important educational issues that you will continue to support for Montana's public school children?

Governor Bullock reiterated that he will continue to support preschool, great teachers, and educators who "continue to encourage innovation within a system of local control." He again emphasized that "we need to continue to confirm that the great equalizer is access to quality public education, and I will continue to support and protect that."

Superintendent Arntzen hopes to ensure that the "legislature's commitment to schools continues" after they leave Helena, and she looks forward to ongoing communications with the legislature through weekly emails as well as having a bipartisan education caucus meet twice a month. She also wants to hear from Montana's school districts, noting that "my job is to serve our school districts and to turn this organization of good people based in Helena into a service organization that serves all of our schools and students across the state."

In a busy holiday season and with a return to an even busier beginning of the New Year, our Governor and Superintendent were both gracious with their time and positive with their approach to supporting public education.

Be sure to join SAM and your affiliate organizations in Helena on Monday, March 13 for the Public Education Day of Advocacy, where you can see Governor Bullock, Superintendent Arntzen, and your legislators as we advocate together for their continued support of public education.



BULLETIN Page 3

Advocacy for Montana's Students is Front and Center in the 2017 Legislative Session!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

SAM and our work with the MT-PEC partners is a key factor in the preparation of legislators who are learning about education issues some 20 days into the 65th Montana Legislative Session. During the session is when our SAM members' work over 2 years to establish the priorities for advocacy comes front and center, and the great effort now is to teach our elected officials the importance of investing in our quality system of public schools and to develop policies (laws) that encourage our ability to provide quality programming for children that helps them reach their full educational potential – that is a Constitutional statement (Article X, Section 1)! Read on to learn about our SAM efforts to focus our education plan for the legislature on making a difference in educating Montana's children.



MT-PEC has written an Issue Spotlight, "A Roadmap to Success in the 2017 Legislative Session," that provides a concise depiction of progress on education issues 20 days into the legislative session. This is intended for your use with your staff, community and interested parties! Follow the link at http://www.mt-pec.org/k12issuespotlights/2017/roadmap-to-success. One of the key issues outlined is the importance of grassroots advocacy. This is where our SAM Legislative Network 2017 (SAMLN17) plays a key role in insuring that our legislators are provided with the best information to learn about effective investments and policies to support our schools. Thank you to over 80 SAM members who are deeply engaged in the SAMLN17 grass roots advocacy effort.

You can check the latest SAM Legislative Updates to get details of our advocacy progress in the 2017 session by following the link http://www.sammt.org/domain/282. This webpage will allow you to review the bills being tracked by SAM, review the SAM Legislative Network Updates, and have access to all of the resources being used to advocate for SAM's advocacy priorities. As the session progresses we will be using the SAMLN17 "Call to Action" as the grassroots advocacy tool to help our legislators understand the most important issues impacting the education of Montana's children.

There are two large-scale grassroots advocacy plans that are developed for February and March. I hope you will join your fellow administrators, school board members, business officials and teachers in supporting education advocacy.

MT-PEC Caucus Day on the Hill - February 13

Please join us for the MT-PEC Caucus Day on the Hill (follow the link at http://www.sammt.org/Page/1085) in Helena on February 13, 2017. This is a day where we want to make our voices heard at the Capitol by meeting face-to-face with our legislators to tell the story about the great work accomplished for the students in our schools. Please register to join your fellow educators in the planned event to advocate for our students and schools!

MT-PEC Day of Advocacy – March 13

This year's MT-PEC Day of Advocacy will kick off on Monday, March 13, 2017 at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel in Helena. Beginning at 8:30 am we have an advocacy packed day of learning planned, culminating with a 6:00 pm reception with legislators who will be invited to meet with their school leadership team. Follow the link at http://www.sammt.org/Page/998 to see the schedule and to register for the MT-PEC Day of Advocacy 2017!

One of the goals of SAM's Strategic Plan is advocacy for the education of Montana's children. We are so fortunate at SAM to have outstanding leadership of our SAM and Affiliate Boards working with our entire membership to achieve the strategic objectives of our advocacy goal. Thank you to all for sharing the GREAT story of your schools and the success of the children served in your community at this legislative time of year!





SAM Affiliate Activity Galore!

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

Here is an update of current activity happening within your particular affiliate:

MASS Members

• The **President-Elect** position, on the MASS Board of Directors, is now open for application. This position moves up in the ranks each year from President-Elect (17-18) to President (18-19) to Past President (19-20). This position will also serve on the SAM Board of Directors. If you are interested in providing your service to the MASS leadership, please fill out the online application that was emailed out to all members on January 30. If you know someone that would be good in this position, please contact them and encourage them to apply. You must be a current MASS/ AASA joint member to apply for candidacy of this elected position. The deadline for application is Friday, March 3, 2017



- The **Federal Relations Coordinator** position is now open on the MASS Board of Directors. Online applications are now being accepted for any MASS/AASA member who would be interested in this position. The MASS Federal Relations Coordinator also serves as a MASS Representative on the SAM Board of Directors. This position is appointed by the MASS Executive Board; it is not an elected position. The criteria for selection used by the Executive Board includes experience, qualifications for state and federal advocacy, and desire of each applicant. You must be a current MASS/AASA joint member to apply. The application is due by Friday, March 3, 2017.
- Calling all Retirees! If you are a current MASS member and looking to retire at the end of this year, please contact MASS President-Elect, Tobin Novasio by email at novasiot@lockwoodschool.org or give him a quick call at 406-252-6022. The MASS Board of Directors would like to recognize you at the MASS Spring Conference on March 14, 2017 being held at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena.

MAEMSP Members

- The following elected positions on the MAEMSP Board of Directors are now up for vote:
 - **Vice President** (entire MAEMSP membership votes)
 - Eastern Region Director (only Eastern Region Members vote)
 - Northeastern Region Director (only Northeastern Region Members vote)
 - **Southwestern Region Director** (only Southwestern Region Members vote)
- Candidate ballots were sent out by email on January 30 voting ends on February 13, 2017.

MCASE Members

• The MCASE President-Elect position on the MCASE Board of Directors is now up for vote. A ballot was sent out on January 31 – voting ends on February 13, 2017. The MCASE President-Elect will be announced at the MCEC Conference on February 15-17, 2017 in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn.

META Members

• The Montana Educational Technologists Association (META) presents the **Montana K-12 School Technologist of the Year** Program. This award is established to recognize the fine achievements and successes of a Montana K-12 School Technologist (Tech Coordinator, Tech Director, Tech Specialist, etc) at the State level. Eligible candidates must be current 2016-17 META members. **Nominations will close on Friday, February 24, 2017**. Please nominate a deserving individual today! The 2017 META Technologist of the Year will be announced at the **METAtechED Conference on March 14-15, 2017** at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena.





SAM Associate Director Message Continued...

MASSP Members

- The **Vice President** position, on the MASSP Board of Directors, is now open for application. This position moves up in the ranks each year from Vice President (17-18) to President-Elect (18-19) to President (19-20) and then Past President (20-21). This position will also serve on the SAM Board of Directors. If you are interested in providing your service to the MASSP leadership, please fill out the online application that will be emailed out to all members on February 2, 2017. If you know someone that would be good in this position, please contact them and encourage them to apply. You must be a current MASSP/NASSP active member to apply for candidacy of this elected position. The deadline for application is Friday, March 17, 2017.
- The following awards are now available for application or nomination (check SAM website sammt.org). All applications or nominations are due by March 3, 2017:
 - **o** MASSP Future Administrators Scholarship Are you currently enrolled in a graduate school program seeking to be a secondary school principal? If so, please apply for this scholarship worth \$1100.
 - o MASSP Community Partner Award The Community Partner in Education Award is presented to a private citizen outside of the professional educational organization who is always there to support education and youth through his/her involvement in activities or projects that truly impact the schools and communities. The recipient is announced and recognized at the MASSP Spring Conference. Please nominate a deserving individual.
 - **o** MASSP Principal of the Year The National Principal of the Year program recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. These principals are acknowledged by their peers for the exemplary contributions they have made to the profession. The program honors high school principals who have demonstrated excellence in the areas addressed by the selection criteria.

The application process is entirely online through NASSP. The completed application is utilized by MASSP in the selection of the Montana Principal of the Year. The winner's application is then verified by SAM with NASSP for consideration in the national selection process. Applicants will be required to create a logon to apply.

• If you are a current **MASSP member** and you are planning on retiring at the end of this year, MASS Vice President, Peter Hamilton needs to hear from you soon! Please contact Peter at cbhsph@cutbankschools.net or give a quick call to 406-873-5629. The MASSP Board of Directors would like to honor retirees at the **MASSP Spring Conference on April 6-7, 2017 being held at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena.**

MACSS Members

Patric L. Audit

• The 2017 MACSS Winter Conference is almost here! It will be held at the Great Northern Hotel on February 14-16, 2017 here in Helena.

This is a flurry of events and activities that are happening now with each SAM affiliate! Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks to all of the SAM membership that is now 1013 members strong!





SAM Creates Opportunities for Members and Students Through Partnership with Montana Army National Guard

Guard Benefits

Pay

2LT Drill Pay= \$396.32 (two days)

2LT Annual Training Pay=\$1,486.20

Minimum Annual Income for 2LT (12 Weekends and 2 Weeks of Annual Training) =\$6,242.04

E-4 Basic Training Pay = \$5,115 (10 Weeks) \$6,615 with BAH (Mortgage or Lease)

Insurance

Tricare Reserve Select Jan 1, 2017 Premiums:

\$47.82/Month Member Only

\$217.51/Month Member and Family

Annual Outpatient Deductible:

Sponsor Rank E4 and below: \$50 per individual, but no more than \$100 per family

Sponsor Rank E5 and above: \$150 per individual, but no more than \$300 per family

Education

Student Loan Repayment: Up to \$50,000

G.I. Bill: \$369

State Scholarship: up to \$1,200/semester

Federal Tuition Assistance: \$250 per credit hour/16 credits per year=\$4,000. Up to 39 semester hr/post baccalaureate degree.





BULLETIN Page 7

Rigorous Learning For All Students



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Professional Learning





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Montana Association of School Superintendents 2017 Annual Spring Conference

March 14, 2017 Best Western Great Northern, Helena, MT

Tuesday, March 14 -- 7:30 am to 12:00 pm

*Keynote Speaker - Noelle Ellerson - Update on ESSA Implementation,
the Federal Budget and other items of interest

*Day of Advocacy Debrief

*Exhibitor Visits

*Business Meeting

*School Size Caucus

*Award/Retirement Recognition

*Closing Remarks

Hotel Room Block -- Block Expires February 17, 2017

Best Western Great Northern, 835 Great Northern Boulevard, Helena -- 406-457-5500 Refer to the MASS SPRING CONFERENCE room block to receive the \$135/night.

Register by Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 and qualify for our Early Bird Discount!

Cancellations received after 5:00 pm March 7th are subject to a \$25 cancellation fee







METAtechEd Conference 2017 March 14-15 Great Northern Hotel

Draft Agenda

Detailed Agenda Coming Soon!!!

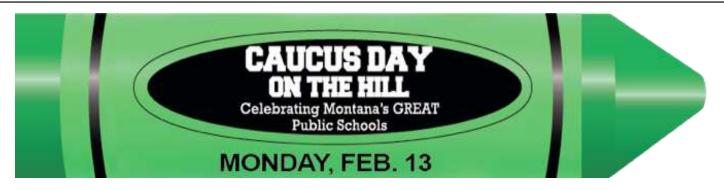
Tuesday, March 14th:

Registration
Welcome and Program Overview
META Luncheon
Breakout Session 1
Break and Visit with Exhibitors
Breakout Session 2
Breakout Session 3
Break and Visit with Exhibitors
META Membership/Business Meeting
Dinner Served - FREE to all META Members

Wednesday, March 15th:

7:00-7:45 am	Registration and Breakfast
7:45-8:00 am	Welcome and Program Overview
8:00-9:00 am	Breakout Sessions 1
9:00-9:15 am	Break and Visit with Exhibitors
9:15-10:15 am	Breakout Sessions 2
10:15-10:30 am	Visit with Exhibitors
10:30-11:30 am	Breakout Sessions 3
11:30-12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30-1:30 pm	Breakout Sessions 4
1:30-1:45 pm	Break and Visit with Exhibitors
1:45-2:45 pm	Breakout Sessions 5
2:45-3:00 pm	Break and Visit with Exhibitors
3:00-4:00 pm	Closing Speaker - Sheryl Abshire, Board Member CoSN
4:00-4:30 pm	Thanks, Goodbye, Travel Safely





BREAKING NEWS: Governor Bullock and State Superintendent Arntzen will be present!

Luncheon:	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Capitol Rotunda
Floor Sessions (Senate and House):	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Capitol
Governor Steve Bullock Visit:	1:45 pm	Governor's Reception Room
State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen Visit:	2:15 pm	Capitol Room 303
Hearings (Senate and House):	3:00 - 5:00 pm	Capitol
Reception:	6:00 - 8:00 pm	MTSBA, 863 Great Northern Blvd., 4th Floor

There is **no charge** for this event. We ask that you <u>register</u> to assist with final numbers for food and beverage preparations.

Reminders:

- Let your legislator know in advance that you plan to be in the gallery for the floor session and they may introduce you
- Make sure you extend a personal invitation to the luncheon and the evening reception to your legislators.

We are united by our shared interests in the best interests of students!













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3:00-5:00 pm

6:00-8:00 pm

Welcome, Great Northern Hotel Ralph Martire Legislative Preview

Lunch with Legislators in the Capitol Rotunda Floor Sessions (House and Senate)

Meet with Governor Bullock (not confirmed)
Meet with State Superintendent Arntzen (not confirmed)

Committee Hearings (Senate and House) Reception with Legislators, MTSBA 4th Floor

We are united by our shared interests in the best interests of students!













Recent MT-PEC poll of Montana voters

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to check out how GREAT Montana's Public Schools are and look at K-12 Vision Group plans for the future!

of Montanans prioritize K-12 Public Schools as the area of highest priority for state goverment to spend our tax

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24.8%
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Including servicesfor
children, the poor, aged
and disabled

12%
Corrections
Public safety
and law
enforcement



SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2016-17

School Administrators of Montana is proud to offer innovative professional learning opportuni-

School Administrators of M on tan a

ties to district and school leaders across Montana. A combination of the SAM Mentor Program and the SAM 21st Century Leadership Institute (21 CLI), the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) is unlike any program available today. In our 4th year, the LPLP provides a unique opportunity for those who register for the program(s) to receive **one-on-one coaching/mentoring** and **innovative**, **student learning focused**, **blended professional learning opportunities** while working with experienced, highly qualified Montana administrators (mentor/coaches called Providers) in each of the 9 MASS region areas of the state.

SAM Mentor Program

Helping School leaders succeed...

The SAM Mentor Program uses trained, effective, recently retired and practicing administrators from each of the Superintendent Regions in Montana. Using a regional model allows SAM to take advantage of the knowledge and experience these leaders possess regarding the culture and values of the communities in their region. Understanding the culture and values of a community is key to the success of a school or district leader.

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- ✓ Trained mentors who are respected and successful in the field of educational leadership
- ✓ Mentors who are current and up to date on today's education issues and research
- ✓ Supported by the Montana University System, OPI and Private Business
- ✓ Online networking and webinars through the Resource Center at sammt.org
- ✓ One-on-one support
- ✓ Mentoring specific to the needs of the mentee
- ✓ On-site visits based on mutual agreement between mentor and mentee
- ✓ Confidentiality what is discussed in mentoring stays in mentoring
- ✓ Renewal units through OPI

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SAM 21 CLI is a unique approach to professional learning and school improvement, incorporating all the critical elements of what we know is exemplary practice in professional learning.

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Professional Development measured in terms of impact on STUDENT LEARNING!

- Learn by Doing Connect your PD to your everyday work and professional goals and growth plans
- Individualize, Personalized and Differentiated Utilize a powerful ONLINE 21st Century Professional Learning Center with teaching modules and a wealth of resources: hundreds of books, articles, videos and more
- Learning Teams Participate in teams with opportunities for networking, collegiality
- Learning Cycles Designed to provide a framework for continuous collegial dialog with a well-organized, user-friendly interface and methodology
- Coaching & Mentoring A critical element of professional learning that includes guided practice with available providers that are experienced and adept in educational processes
- High Impact Achieve measureable improvement in student learning

Learn more about the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program by visiting 'www.sammt.org' then, under Accouncements click 'SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2016-17'

BULLETIN
Page 13

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Phone: 651-213-4068

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Upcoming 2016-17 Conferences & Meetings

2017	February	13	MT-PEC Caucus Day on the Hill	Helena
		14-16	MACSS Conference	Helena
		15	MCEC Conference	Missoula
	March	13	MT-PEC Day of Advocacy	Helena
		14	MASS Spring Conference	Helena
		14-15	METAtechED Conference	Helena
	April	6-7	MASSP Spring Conference	Helena
	June	14	DaRud Cup Golf Tourney	Helena
		15	SAM Evening of Excellence	Helena
		15-16	SAM Delegate Assembly	Helena
	July/Aug	31-3	SAM Administrators Institute	Helena