

SAM

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School Administrators of Montana BULLETIN

VOLUME XXXIX

March 2017

NO. 261

Update from META

by Richard Lawrence, META President

META has been very busy working on many Technology issues and initiatives that impact both Instructional Technology and Technology infrastructure. As Technology becomes more and more of a major component of instruction and curriculum our efforts become more relevant and important for the support of our Teachers and Administrators who are responsible for the Educational progress of our Students State wide.

META `s core values are:

1. Educate and Influence. Educate and influence decisions on Technology related Educational processes at the school, district, state and federal level.
2. Best Practices. Collaborate to share technology solutions and best practices in education.
3. Professional Community. Develop a community to provide professional growth, productive relationships and mutual respect among members.

META has five major areas of focus we are working on at this time:

Advocacy- we continue to advocate for Educational Instructional and Infrastructure Technologies for all of our Schools and Students in Montana.

Professional Development/Annual Conference- We fully support the continuing Professional Development related to Instructional Technology and Infrastructure for all of our Teachers, Administrators and Staff. One of the major tools we have to accomplish this is our Annual Conference which is full of highly educational and instructive breakout sessions related to Instructional technology and Infrastructure.

Information Super Highway/Digital equity- META understands the great need for affordable, reliable Digital connectivity for all of our Students State wide. We are communicating with groups within the State as well as a national organization to work with both private sector and government entities to move this initiative forward.

ERATE Education and Training- The federal ERATE program is one of the most important sources of funding for Educational Technology infrastructure. We at META feel that in the State of Montana many Schools are not taking advantage of this great source of funding because of the complexities of the request for funding process. We are working on an education and instructional presentation that we plan to present to School Administrators to help them be able to make informed decisions on ERATE funding that could benefit their District.

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META President's Message Continued...

National Affiliation- META has partnered with CoSN which is the leading National organization that represents Education Instruction and Infrastructure Technologies. Because of this partnership we have access to many new sources of Educational and Advocacy materials related to Instructional Technologies.

META looks forward to moving all of these five focus areas forward and working on any new initiatives that may present themselves in the future. META is here as a resource for all of Montana's Schools and stands ready to work side by side with all Education and Technology leaders. Thank you for all you do for our Students.

Rich Lawrence- META President



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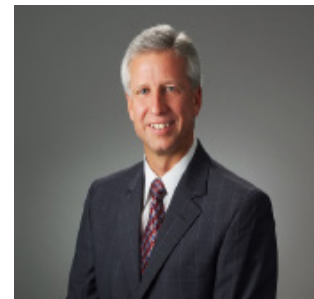


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Professional Learning & Advocacy Top the List in March!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

SAM's leadership have developed outstanding opportunities in the month of March to enhance your professional learning and advocate for the students served in our schools. For more details on professional learning and advocacy, I reference you to the SAM website (www.sammt.org) and to the 'Conferences' tab for professional learning, and the 'Advocacy' tab and '2017 Legislative Session' tab for advocacy.



Professional Learning Opportunities

A number of professional conferences are planned by partners and affiliate leadership to create opportunities for administrators to network with each other and gain background knowledge on contemporary topics impacting educational leadership. Check out these upcoming opportunities and sign up to join your colleagues...

Day of Advocacy

On March 13, the MT-PEC partners are sponsoring the Day of Advocacy in Helena where trustees, administrators, business officials and teachers will gather to advocate for our schools. Follow the link (<http://www.sammt.org/Page/998>) for the details of this exciting day and register to attend so you can have your voice heard by our Montana legislators!

MASS Spring Conference 2017

On March 14 in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel Convention Center, the MASS Spring Conference 2017 is planned and ready for you to engage with your colleagues. Follow the link (<http://www.sammt.org/Page/222>) to review the details and to register for the conference. The agenda has information you will want to know and some celebration of our MASS award winners and retirees!

METAtchED Conference 2017

"Unlock the Future" is the theme for the 2nd Annual METAtchED Conference 2017 in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel Convention Center on March 14-15! All administrators would enjoy and gain valuable information by attending this outstanding professional learning opportunity. Follow the link (<http://www.sammt.org/Page/592>) to learn more and to register to join your colleagues to learn the latest technology in education info!

MASSP Spring Conference 2017

Calling all principals ... are you looking forward to experiencing the great opportunity to engage with your colleagues, learn about success in motivating your staff and students, and having some fun ... then get the MASSP Spring Conference 2017 in Helena, April 6-7 at the Great Northern Hotel Convention Center. Follow the link (<http://www.sammt.org/Page/284>) to get the details and to register for this great opportunity!

Advocacy

The SAM 2017 Legislative Session web page, follow the link at (<http://www.sammt.org/domain/282>), has all the info you need to keep up with the session and understand the advocacy work of our SAM Legislative Network. Here are a few details for your review ...

SAM Executive Director's Message Continued...

2017 Legislative Session Update

Today is the 45th day of the 65th Montana Legislative Session. In general the session is moving faster than normal and there are fewer bills (981) being considered than in recent past sessions. The legislature will have taken action on all bills intended to meet transmittal (moving from one house to the other, except for appropriation and revenue bills -- must be transmitted by March 30) and they will take the rest of the week off for transmittal break. Our SAM members have been active in the 1st half of the session and I thank our members who are serving on the SAM Legislative Network for their effort to keep pace with all that is happening and for being in contact with legislators in their area regarding bills of importance to SAM advocacy priorities. Follow the link at (<http://www.sammt.org/cms/lib03/MT15000278/Centricity/Domain/282/SAM%20Legislative%20Update%202-24-17.pdf>) to review the SAM Legislative Update for the 1st half of the session. This report details the bills followed in SAM's advocacy priorities and lets you know about our progress. To review bill updates as they are happening, follow the link (<http://www.sammt.org/Page/1082>) and click on each of the advocacy priorities. If you have questions or need anything related to advocacy, please contact Pat or myself and we will assist you.

SAM's Strategic Plan goals of professional learning and advocacy for the education of Montana's children are alive and well as we enter March. I hope you will plan to join your colleagues in the opportunities outlined. It is our collective effort in professional learning and advocacy that is a difference maker for the schools and students you serve! Thanks for your great educational leadership of our schools!




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2017-18 Membership Drive Coming Soon! New Twist to the Process!

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

It is that time of the year again where we will be requesting that you renew your SAM membership with your respective affiliate for 2017-18. Brand new for this membership year ... Coming this April, your district clerk will be receiving SAM Membership Renewal Invoices by way of EMAIL and not the US Postal Service. The reason for this change lies in the fact that SAM is in the process of implementing new association management software (MemberClicks) which will upgrade our website, database and tools that can be used by all SAM members.



This email invoice will have all SAM memberships included for your particular district much like you have received in one packet by mail in the past. It will give you and your clerk instructions on how to log in to your organization's information within the new and improved SAM database. All member information, currently in the new SAM database, will already be filled in for each district employee who is a member of SAM. If there are any changes or incorrect information that should be adjusted for 2017-18, please contact your clerk to review the email and make any of these changes.

It also should be noted that you, as a member, will be getting an email notification that your clerk has received the invoice email. Any member that is not affiliated with a school district with a clerk or secretary, will be the direct contact for email invoicing. In a matter of streamlined efficiency, you or a district clerk will only need to check off any renewals for any members and their relative affiliate within the district or organization. The SAM office will receive these renewals in real time once they are marked for renewal. Once you are comfortable and all information checked on the invoice, please have your clerk print a copy of the invoice and send back with a check to the following address:

School Administrators of Montana
900 N. Montana Avenue, Suite A-4
Helena, MT 59601

We do encourage you to renew your membership early so you can start the next fiscal year with full benefits of your membership in place without any chance of lapse.

SAM is currently 1015 members strong with cumulative memberships from all 6 affiliates of MASS, MAEMSP, MASSP, META, MCASE and MACSS, including Institutional Memberships. That is 28 more than all of last year and hopefully the SAM membership will keep growing for this next year! The leadership, integrity, professionalism, advocacy, and professional learning services are only as strong as the unity of the members that belong to our SAM organization!

Look for the email notification of invoices coming in April!

It should also be noted that all districts, organizations and direct contacts will soon be receiving further instructions on how to access your organization's information, the new SAM website and new member blog system. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director at (406) 442-2510 or email at sampa@sammt.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patric L. Audet". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a faint, illegible stamp.

Personalized Learning...

by Loyd Rennaker, Superintendent, Darby Schools

Is it a buzzword? Is it a trend? Will it be here in ten years, 20..... Personalized learning is something we are hearing a lot about in education. Some say it's "shiny". Some say it is repackaged differentiated instruction. I say it's what we have been trying to do all along, and what Darby School District is striving to implement.

I remember in 8th grade math, a few students, including myself, were bored. We were not being challenged. Our teacher recognized this, so she made the walk across campus to the high school and came back with Algebra 1 books. She gave them to us with a charge to learn on our own. She didn't have time to help us, but we did the best we could. It made us less bored, but didn't put us ahead. We still had to take Algebra 1 in high school.

Technology has given new opportunities to our students. Imagine if my teacher would have handed me a device with the entire content loaded on it with links to videos to help me learn and then been available to help as needed. I can only imagine the progress that would have taken place. Our students have this opportunity today.

Over the past year, I have been immersed in learning about current Personalized Learning. After being introduced to the idea in Phoenix at the AASA Conference, I joined the National PL Cohort. This affiliation has given me a number of opportunities to visit school districts where PL implementation is happening. I have been impressed to observe students who are given opportunities to control parts of their learning; pace, place, time and program.

The teachers in our school have been introduced to the idea of PL, and some have jumped in with both feet. In our 8-12 English and Science classes, students are working at their own pace with support of the teacher and paraprofessionals. Allowing multi-grade students in the same room has presented challenges for the teachers, but is a blessing for students as their schedule is less restrictive and they can move faster than the class if they choose to.

We are a little more than half way through the year and see great potential with PL. Besides earning credit towards graduation, our students are developing independent learning skills. Many of them appreciate not having to wait for the rest of the class once they have something mastered. They can move on. When they are struggling they have the teacher as a resource, and a world of resources at their fingertips through technology. Upon mastery they feel a strong sense of accomplishment.

Finding a good fit for a content provider is proving to be a challenge. We continue to encounter more options to choose from. In our assessment they range from too basic to quite complex in their expectations. Also, some programs are cost prohibitive. We continue to work with the companies to find the program that will be right for our students.

I asked Kylie, a junior at our school about her experience with PL. She believes it "is better, because it's challenging me to work harder. I am learning a lot more than in previous classes and feel that I am being better prepared for college work." The engagement we see in the students leads us to believe Kylie is just one of many who are learning a necessary work ethic for their future.

The Darby School District is exploring ways to implement PL K-12. Much like the investigation process we went through with the high school, we will send elementary teachers to visit schools implementing PL to gather ideas and learn from those a little further down the road. We will also be searching for a quality Learning Management System to make sure students get the content needed to be successful as they progress.

I am happy to share what we have learned, and help anyone in the process to explore and implement Personalized Learning in your school. We would also like to learn from you about the great ways you are personalizing learning for all students!

*Rigorous Learning For
All Students*



**International Center for
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RIGOROUS LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Health Insurance

Professional Learning



Technology Innovation

BULLETIN

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SERVING 145,000+ MONTANA STUDENTS

821

TOTAL SCHOOLS

410

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

86%

GRADUATION RATE

MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE GREAT!

GET THE SKINNY!

PUBLIC EDUCATION DAY OF ADVOCACY

MARCH 13 - MONTANA STATE CAPITOL



8:30-8:35 am	Welcome, Great Northern Hotel
8:35-9:50 am	Ralph Martire
10:00-11:00 am	Legislative Preview
11:30-1:00 pm	Lunch with Legislators in the Capitol Rotunda
1:00-3:00 pm	Floor Sessions (House and Senate)
1:45 pm	Meet with Governor Bullock (not confirmed)
2:15 pm	Meet with State Superintendent Arntzen (not confirmed)
3:00-5:00 pm	Committee Hearings (Senate and House)
6:00-8:00 pm	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

Montana's Public Schools are made up of:

- 145,000+ students!
- 15,086 licensed K-12 staff !
- 821 schools!
- 410 school districts!
- 1400 volunteer

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

51.5% of Montanans prioritize K-12 Public Schools as the area of highest priority for state government to spend our tax dollars.





**Montana Association of School
Superintendents
2017 Annual Spring Conference
March 14, 2017**

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

- 7:30 – 8:00 am Continental Breakfast - Foyer
- 8:00 – 8:05am Welcome and Introductions – Laurie Barron, MASS President
- 8:05 – 8:30am Day of Advocacy Debrief – Facilitated by Laurie Barron, MASS President
- 8:30 – 9:30am Keynote Presentation – Noelle Ellerson- Update on ESSA Implementation, the Federal Budget and other items of interest
- 9:30 – 9:45am Break and Visit with Exhibitors
- 9:45 – 10:45am Breakout Sessions – School Size
AA Schools - Facilitated by Tammy Lacey, Great Falls
A Schools - Facilitated by Ross Farber, Dawson County
B Schools - Facilitated by Rick Duncan, Powell County
C Schools - Facilitated by Annette Hart, Judith Gap
K-8 Schools - Facilitated by Corey Austin, Target Range
Native American School Leaders - Facilitated by Jim Baldwin, Poplar
- 10:45 – 11:00am Break and Visit with Exhibitors
- 11:00 – 11:45am Years of Service Pins/Retirement Recognition – Tobin Novasio, MASS President-Elect
- 11:45 – 12:15pm MASS Business Meeting – Laurie Barron, MASS President
President-Elect Candidate Speeches
- 12:15 – 12:20pm Closing Remarks – Tobin Novasio, MASS President-Elect

METAtechEd Conference 2017
March 14-15
Great Northern Hotel
Unlock the Future



Tuesday:

- 11:00-12:00pm Registration
- 12:00-12:10pm Welcome and Program Overview
- 12:10-1:00pm META Luncheon - Sponsored by
- 1:00 2:00pm Breakout Session
 - Session A - Appliansys / Cachebox - Bytespeed presents: The Heavyweight Champion ship of the World - Another Bandwidth Upgrade v. CACHEBOX - Roger Clark
 - Session B - Juniper - Building Scalable, Secure Broadband Connections - Mark Smith
 - Session C - Microsoft - Digitally Transform your District - Carl Sweetland
- 2:00-2:15pm Break and Visit with Exhibitors - Sponsored by
- 2:15-3:10pm Breakout Session
 - Session A - RUCKUS - Network Design, VLAN, and Security Considerations - Dan Skrove
 - Session B - T.E.S.T. - Tomorrow's Collaborative Classroom - Liz Cunningham
 - Session C - FIRST CALL - Superintendent Reality Slap - Conor Smith
- 3:10-4:15pm Breakout Session
 - Session A - Barracuda - Charlie Kunkel
 - Session B - FBI - Cyber Security - Special Agent Shiloh Allen
 - Session C - Microsoft - Windows 10: What's new and how to Deploy - Carl Sweetland
- 4:15-4:30pm Break and Visit with Exhibitors - Sponsored by
- 4:30-5:45pm META Membership/Business Meeting
- 5:45-6:45pm Dinner Served - provided free to all META members

Wednesday:

- 7:00-7:45am Registration and Breakfast
- 7:45-8:00am Welcome and Program Overview
- 8:00-9:00am Breakout Session 1
 - Session A - Pinecove - Synchronized Security and Your District - Brandon Vancleeve
 - Session B -
 - Session C - InTECHgrated Professional Development - Microsoft in Education Showcase - Lindy Hockenbary
- 9:00-9:15am Break and Visit with Exhibitors - Sponsored by
- 9:15-10:15am Breakout Session 2
 - Session A - VMWare - Practical Path to NSX - Aaron Ramirez
 - Session B - Microsoft - Modern Office Deployments: Office MSI vs. Office ProPlus - Carl Sweetland
 - Session C - META Security SubCommittee - Preventative, Post Incident and Professional Develop topics related to network security - Panel Discussion
- 10:15-10:30am Visit with Exhibitors
- 10:30-11:30am Breakout Session 3
 - Session A - ITC/HP - Remote Graphics Software
 - Session B - Garth Flint - Computer Programming: Free Stuff is Everywhere
 - Session C - Cisco - Advanced Malware Protection (AMP) - Michelle Waterman

META Conference Agenda Continued...

11:30-12:30pm	Lunch - Sponsored by
12:30-1:30pm	Breakout Session 4
	Session A - Bytespeed - Enhancing Curriculum with Virtual Reality - Lindy Hockenbary
	Session B - Kaspersky - The Basics of Protecting Your Schools - Lindsey Berenbach
	Session C - Microsoft - Getting Started with Office 365 - Carl Sweetland
1:30-1:45pm	Break and Visit with Exhibitors - Sponsored by
1:45-2:45pm	Breakout Session 5
	Session A - NCCE - Microsoft in the Classroom - Lindsey Berenbach
	Session B - SWMSS - Building Tech Capacity with PLCs - Todd Lark
	Session C - CoSN - CETL Certification Panel - Panel Discussion
2:45-3:00pm	Break and Visit with Exhibitors - Sponsored by
3:00-4:00pm	Closing Speaker - Sheryl Abshire - CTO, Calcasieu Parish Public Schools, Lake Charles, Louisiana
4:00-4:30pm	Thanks, Goodbye, Travel Safely



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Montana Association of Secondary School Principals

2016 Annual Spring Conference

April 6-7, 2017

Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern

Thursday, April 6, 2017 -- Spring Conference

Welcomes, Comedians Nina G & Michael Beers, “*Improving Your School’s ACT Scores*” - Cambridge Education Services, Legislative Update, Mini EdCamps, SAM Updates, Exhibitor BINGO & Reception

Friday, April 7, 2017 -- Spring Conference

Annual Business Meeting, “*Improving Your School’s ACT Scores*” - Cambridge Education Services, Lunch and Presentations, Comedians Nina G & Michael Beers - “What it’s Like to be a Learning Disabled Principal”

- Are you aware of the new ACT® changes?
- Are you interested in improving student scores 2 to 3 scaled score points on average?
- Does Data frustrate you and you wish it were easier to support staff and students?
Wouldn't it be nice if an expert can speak about all of these and share how schools can further impact student test scores for college admissions and scholarships?

Calling all principals and their teacher teams to receive answers and more to ensure school-wide success on the ACT®! ACT Success, Motivating Staff and Students, Networking, and Advocacy for Montana Schools.

Register yourself and Math, Science, and English teachers today!

Copy & Paste the link below to Register!

<https://docs.google.com/a/sammt.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmYiRMG629oejiDjiZ47Q7XQCWLLOOTR6eE798alXx-4PylHw/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Hotel Room Block -- *Block Expires March 6, 2017*

Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Blvd, 406-457-5500
Refer to the **MASSP SPRING CONFERENCE** room block to receive the \$137.00 per night rate.

Register by Friday, March 17, 2017 and qualify for our **Early Bird Discount!**

Cancellations received after 5:00 pm March 28th are subject to a \$30 cancellation fee

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Upcoming 2016-17 Conferences & Meetings

2017

March	13	MT-PEC Day of Advocacy	Helena
	14	MASS Spring Conference	Helena
	14-15	METAtchED 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