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School Administrators of Montana BULLETIN

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Reflecting on Perseverance in Montana Public Schools

by Steve Engebretson, MACSS President

As I sit down to type this message, our state legislators are heading home, having just adjourned Sine Die. Thus ends another whirlwind legislative session. Thoughts and emotions flood my mind as I reflect on the past four months. We, the collective education community, made it through another session! In many ways we are better off than when the session began. This is not by accident.

Montana's public education system is a bright and shining star, and it is due the efforts of hundreds of dedicated, informed, and actively engaged people who work tirelessly to defend and strengthen Montana Public Education. From the gatekeepers on the front lines working day and night in the hallways and committee rooms of the capitol, to the foot soldiers across the state writing letters and making phone calls to their local legislators, we are all one. United in a common cause - to provide the best education possible to every child so each one may be successful, thereby securing a bright future for all of us, our children, and our children's children. The challenges we faced have, at times, been overwhelming and it has been incredibly remarkable how we have overcome those challenges.

So now, as the legislators hurry to their vehicles and return home to their loved ones, we have a bit of time to reflect on the changes that have occurred in the past four months and how they will impact our schools. It must be more than coincidence that the school year is scheduled to wind down the same time the legislature adjourns. After you wave goodbye to your students and colleagues for the summer, I encourage you to take a few minutes to sit back, take a deep breath, and relax.

More challenges await us in the future and more battles to win if we are to preserve and maintain the bright, shining star that is Montana Public Education. However, those are for another day. Now is a time to rest, reflect, and renew. It is reassuring to know the gatekeepers are always watching and ever vigilant, and will provide a call to action should the need arise at any time. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your efforts. Have a safe and restful summer!

SAM Administrators Institute 2017

July 31 - August 2, 2017 - Radisson Colonial Hotel - Helena, Montana

“Leadership of Transformational Change & Personalized Learning to Impact the Whole Child”

SAM LPLP 2017-17 Summit -- July 31st - *For those that have signed up for the program, those who have participated in the past, and those who may be interested.*

- Induction and professional development for the leader new to their administrative role and those interested in personalizing their learning for leadership and the students they serve.
- LPLP’s multi-faceted blended learning approach consists of a rich online resource center; collegial cohorts that meet both virtually and face-to-face allowing participants to share challenges, successes, and thought leadership with like-minded Montana leaders experiencing similar job roles, situations, and context; and personal learning networks, including one-on-one coaching/mentoring with experienced Providers.

MTASCD Summit -- Leading Learning Organizations -- July 31st - *For ALL Administrators, Teachers, ASCD Members, Curriculum Directors and Educators across Montana.*

- General Session:
 - o Principal Kafele - The Intentionality of School Leadership Effectiveness
- Breakout Sessions:
 - o The Teacher 50
 - o The Principal 50
- MTASCD Annual Membership Meeting



Principal Kafele



Bill Daggett

Instructional Leadership Summit -- August 1st - 2nd - *For Administrators, Educational Leaders, Teachers, University Colleagues, State Officials and all individuals who support the education of Montana’s children!*

August 1st – Transformational Change & Personalized Learning for Teacher Teams & Administrators

- “Creating Future-Focused Schools” – Dr. Bill Daggett, CEO International Center for Leadership in Education will describe and provide vivid examples of future focused rapidly improving schools and strategies employed to from classroom to board room will be discussed.

August 2nd – Leadership for the Whole Child

- Mike McKay, Director Canadian Self-Regulation Initiative - Accountability & Leadership related to Self-Regulation - *Safe, Caring and Successful Schools: Learning Environments That Achieve Results for All Students*
- Break out session Focus Zones
 - o Transformation & Personalized Learning
 - o Social Emotional Learning
 - o Leadership of Contemporary Issues
 - o Leadership Using Technology
 - o Social Media Lounge
- Closing Inspiration - Coach Mike VanDiest, Carroll College Head Football Coach.



Mike McKay

To Register, copy and paste: <http://www.sammt.org/sam-administrators-institute>

65th Montana Legislature - That's A Wrap!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

The 2017 Legislative Session adjourned Sine Die at about 10:45 AM on Friday, April 28. The race to the end included the effort to pass a statewide infrastructure bill that included up to 50 Quality Schools Grant Program school projects ended 2 votes shy of passing, and the resulting hollow feeling of things left undone. The legislature used 88 of the 90 days allowed for the session. The day-to-day activity during the session is demanding of your SAM team, trying to connect the issues with our members who would have most influence in helping the legislators understand the needs of our schools and the students we serve. The weekend allowed some time for reflection on the session, and I share those reflections with you in this article. Please know that in the coming days, SAM will be sharing the details of the 65th Legislative Session and the facts and impacts on our schools. You can expect to see that information on the SAM Advocacy webpage by following the link -- <http://www.sammt.org/advocacy>.



For those interested in the day-to-day activity, all of the reports are on the SAM Legislative Network 2017 webpage by following the link -- <http://www.sammt.org/sam-legislative-network-2017>. A great big thank you to the 85 SAM members who represented all regions of all six SAM affiliate associations in their advocacy service through the SAMLN17 throughout the session. It is this group of SAM advocates that truly made a difference to help legislators understand the SAM advocacy priorities and to assist them when they needed help to cast a vote in the best interest of Montana school children. Along with seventeen SAMLN17 Updates, you will see a half dozen or so Calls to Action were activated session. We were effective in communication with legislators.

SAM Advocacy Priorities were developed by the Delegate Assembly and gained membership approval on October 20, 2016 at MCEL. Those priorities are/were:

- Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators
 - Public School Health Insurance Costs
- Oppose Privatization with Public Funds
- Support Special Education Funding
- Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure

Additionally, as the legislative session began, the revenue shortfall at the state level and the budget issues this causes for the state, required an added advocacy priority to support school funding and the current school funding formula's seven components and the required inflationary increases as established in law (over about 20 years of work to get it to this point). So, these items were the main focus of SAM's work throughout the session. This resulted in following and advocating for (or against) about 110 bills to the end of the session. These bills and their status can be reviewed on the SAM Bills 2017 webpage following the link -- <http://www.sammt.org/sam-bills-2017>.

School Funding

A complicated blend of bills including HB 191 (Inflation on the components of the school funding formula), HB 2 (General appropriations act) and the coordinating language in HB 647 (Generally revise education funding, implement general appropriations bill) resulted in the fact that school district budget authority was not compromised, all components of the funding formula remain in effect, and inflation was applied to those components. The success of this is the fact that the state is experiencing a shortfall of between \$125-\$200 million, and with PK-12 education being about 33% of the state general fund, would in previous years resulted in cuts to PK-12 education of \$40-\$70 million! The challenge with this is that the legislature left the capitol with a balanced state budget, did not increase revenues substantially through fees or tax increases, but did transfer the burden of paying for increase to state services to other

SAM Executive Director's Message Continued...

taxing jurisdictions, like property tax payers in local school districts. The details of the impact on your school district will be forthcoming.

Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators

Five bills during the session were intended to address recruitment and retention. HB 119 (Revise quality educator loan assistance program) and SB 115 (Revising stipends for national board certified teachers) both passed. Unfortunately, all of the funding for HB 119 was stripped from the bill so the policy is good but provides no additional funds to make a difference in the coming biennium.

Oppose Privatization with Public Funds

Two privatization with public funding bills were considered during this session, HB 423 (Create special ed savings accounts) and HB 376 (Establish public charter schools). HB 423 did not make transmittal deadline and HB 376 was killed in the Senate Education Committee only to be blasted to the floor of the Senate on the last 8 days of the session to be used as a bargaining tool for the statewide infrastructure bill. HB 376 did not survive that strategy and was defeated on the House floor for lack of the required 2/3 votes to suspend the rules to hear a bill like this so late in the session.

Support Special Education Funding

Seven bills to address special education funding were a part of the 65th legislative session. All of those bills except for HJ 1 (Request study of funding for education programs for special needs students) failed during the session. The study will take place in the interim and SAM will be working to get our members to the table for that discussion. In the end, HB 2 (General appropriations act) was amended to include approximately \$1.2 million for special ed allowable cost distribution for the biennium. A bit short of inflation, and no adjustment for special ed cooperatives as outlined and promoted by the Special Ed Coop Funding Task Force. More work needs to be done in this area.

Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure

Twelve bills were followed during the session that would have had an impact on school facilities and technology infrastructure. SB 307 (Revise K-12 school funding laws to address facilities) passed the legislative session. The bill establishes a school major maintenance fund allowing districts to permissively levy (\$15,000 per district plus \$100 per student) to establish the fund and the state contribution will be added to the fund depending on the relative wealth of the district (between 18% and 80% match). This fund requires a resolution by school districts to outline the permissive levy increases approved by the trustees and list the projects under consideration for the major maintenance fund. More details will be coming on this new law that provides districts with the ability to establish this major maintenance fund with local contribution and state match, with local control of how and when to use the funds to complete the necessary work in the district. SB 5 (Revise intercap loan program) to allow districts with tax protests or need for temporary facilities to borrow low interest money has passed. HB 390 (Generally revise school funding laws) allows \$2 million in state technology funding to be used as a match for federal E-rate funding (up to \$20 million) for broadband build expanding internet access in Montana schools.

I did not go into details on many other bills that passed that will impact delivery systems in our schools and services we provide for students. Those details will be coming as well. This brief description of the actions around SAM advocacy priorities should reveal why I would characterize the 2017 legislative session as a success for our schools. Certainly, during a time of significant statewide shortfall in revenue, and our schools accounting for 33% of the general fund expenditure, the descriptions above should help all of us understand that we held our ground by not denigrating

SAM Executive Director's Message Continued...

the school funding formula or school district budget authority while gaining policies that allow more local control for school districts.

Again, a big thank you to the SAM members serving on the SAM Legislative Network 2017! The collective effort to enhance advocacy made a difference for the schools and students you serve! Thanks for your great contributions to SAM and to the students in your community!



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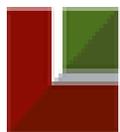
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Health Insurance

Professional Learning



Technology Innovation

SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program - Calling All School Leaders

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

The **SAM LPLP Program** is entering its fifth year of operation but under a newly revised format that will be geared more toward participants being able to easily access rich resources and open a door for more networking with more peers in the field. The SAM LPLP Directors, Tom Unwin and Godfrey Saunders, are ready to combine their talents and efforts in providing an excellent opportunity for any school leader, new or experienced, to have complete, 24/7 access to the new SAM LPLP Resource Center plus the guidance of one of six experienced SAM LPLP Providers.



What exactly is the “revised” program? The SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) is now a singular program that does not exist as two separate programs (Mentor Program and 21st Century Leadership Institute) under one umbrella for 2017-18. The LPLP will now provide a unique and innovative approach to professional learning for Montana school leaders by offering an opportunity for participants to receive student-focused, solution-based professional development designed to be responsive to the challenges and issues administrators face each day - all in one package with two options (explained later).

Connecting administrators throughout the state, LPLP’s multi-faceted blended learning approach consists of a rich on-line resource center; collegial cohorts that meet both virtually and face-to-face allowing participants to share challenges, successes, and thought leadership with like-minded Montana leaders experiencing similar job roles, situations, and context; and personal learning networks, including one-on-one coaching/mentoring with experienced Providers. With a goal of providing professional development to 50 new and experienced Montana administrators each year, the LPLP delivery system will inspire many educators and leaders to understand contemporary, research-based initiatives and successful educational leadership strategies to positively impact the education of thousands of students across Montana.

There are two options in which a participant can be involved in the 2017-18 SAM LPLP. They can choose to have access:

1. Access to all resources described plus a provider
2. Access to all resources without access to the provider

Any interested school leader can register for the program by informing their District Clerk (key contact for SAM membership renewal) to register them within the SAM Membership Renewal process that is currently active. Or, if your district has completed the membership renewal process, an interested leader can also register themselves by clicking https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=24155#/ and registering on this form that is posted on the new SAM website (it will require a login to access this form – use your login information that you may have set up to access the SAM website OR put in your email and utilize the forgot password process to gain your login password to access the form).

An introductory day has been designated for those that have signed up for the LPLP and for those that are interested in registering for the program but want to learn a little more. This will happen on the first day of the SAM Administrators Institute - Monday, July 31, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel in Helena. **You can register for the SAM LPLP 2017-18 Summit and SAM Administrators Institute by clicking https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=24994#/.** You will need to utilize the login process previously described above for registering for the LPLP.

Please consider the 2017-18 SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program as a rich resource of professional learning, networking, and guide to any type of student learning project you are considering for your district. The program will start with the July 31 kick-off! We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Kirk samkm@sam-mt.org or Pat sampa@sammt.org or call at 406-442-2510.

Patric L. Audet

A Quick Reminder on How to Renew SAM Affiliate Memberships

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

SAM Membership Drive 2017-18: School Administrators of Montana (SAM) has a new membership renewal process and website. An email was sent out on April 4th to describe our new system.



Reminder for MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members associated with a school district: Your district clerk – who is your key contact - will need to complete the online renewal form on your behalf and for the other administrators in your district. MCASE members and other affiliate members not associated with a school district will complete their own renewal form. Key contacts are only applicable to the membership renewal process; the new SAM website provides the capability for you to register yourself and pay for your conferences online. Links to the SAM membership renewal forms are listed below. While completing the renewal form, your district clerk will have the ability to unlink members leaving your district and add members new to your district. If an administrator begins working in your district once your renewal process is complete, the new member can complete the new member form to become a SAM member for 2017-18.

Before the membership forms can be completed, a SAM account profile will need to be created. This can be done by completing the following steps:

1. Your email address will be your Username
2. Create your password by clicking https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc_login&view=mcforgotpassword and follow the instructions to create your password. Once established, you will use your username and password to access the resources in the SAM Database and the SAM Website.

Please forward the links to membership renewal forms and instructions below to the appropriate individuals in your district:

- MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members association with a school district – to be completed by your district clerk - Click [https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=23275#/.](https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=23275#/)
- MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members who are NOT currently associated with a district - to be completed by the member - Click [https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=23275#/.](https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=23275#/)
- MCASE members – to be completed by the member – Click [https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=24187#/.](https://saom.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=24187#/)
- New Members – to be completed by the new member – Click <https://saom.memberclicks.net/join-here>.
- Membership renewal instructions and video tutorial – Click <http://www.sammt.org/sam-new-database-and-website-information>

Patric L. Audet

2016 MASSP Spring Awards Presentation

Future Administrator Scholarship

Jamie McGraw, College & Career Coordinator - Great Falls Public Schools, Great Falls, MT

Pins for Years of Service

Years	Name	School District
30	Scott Dubbs	Lewistown Public Schools
15	Dan Kimzey	Hamilton Public Schools
15	Mike Lincoln	Kalispell Public Schools
15	Gregg Wasson	Harlowton Public Schools
10	Paul Furthmyre	Great Falls Public Schools
10	Joel Graves	Eureka Public Schools
10	Dana Quenzer	Roundup Public Schools
10	Bryce Wilson	Kalispell Public Schools
5	Shawn Bleth	Malta Public Schools
5	Kerry Drown	Whitefish Public Schools
5	Dustin Gordon	Fairfield Public Schools
5	Jacob Haynes	Frenchtown Public Schools
5	Beez Lucero	Miles City Public Schools
5	Mike Olson	Culbertson Public Schools
5	Michele Paine	Kalispell Public Schools

Honoring Retirees

Sue Anderson - Sidney

Community Partner in Education Award

Gordon Hendrick - Superior

Assistant Principal of the Year

Shanna Smith - Belgrade High School

Principal of the Year

Gordon Klasna - Lockwood Middle School

Outgoing President's Award

Dan Kimzey - Hamilton High School



BULLETIN

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DaRud Golf Tournament

June 14, 2017

Helena, Montana

2017 Registration

Please complete the information below to participate in the 2017 **DaRud Golf Tournament** at Bill Roberts Golf Course in Helena.

Put your teams together or pairings will be assigned.

Name(s): _____	2	3	4
Email: _____	2	3	4
Phone: _____	2	3	4
Address: _____	2	3	4
City/State/Zip: _____	2	3	4

The cost to play 18 holes with a cart and dinner is \$20.00.

This is the most affordable golf tournament there is...so please get a group and come play some golf. Prizes will be awarded at the dinner following the round.

Tournament starts at 11:00AM at Bill Roberts Golf Course

Return completed submission with payment to:

School Administrators of Montana, Gary Wagner, Operations Manager
900 North Montana, Suite A-4, Helena, MT 59601

Montana Big Sky Sponsors

Health Insurance

P O Box 4579 - Helena, MT 59601

Email: dbarrett@ms-sf.org

Phone: 406-457-4400



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1309 NW Bypass - Great Falls, MT 59404

Email: bruce.wallace@vision.net

Phone: 406-727-5994

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Phone: 406-329-5500



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School property & liability insurance

1200 North Montana Ave. Helena. MT 59601
Email: dpillatzke@paynewest.com
Phone: 406-457-4531

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 Email: srthomas@hazelden.org
 Phone: 651-213-4068



Education Employee Financial Products & Services
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 Email: Geoff.Hinton@americanfidelity.com
 Phone: 509-279-2540, Ext 353



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 mcole@avid.org

Upcoming 2016-17 Conferences & Meetings

2017

June	14	DaRud Cup Golf Tourney	Helena
	15	SAM Evening of Excellence	Helena
	15-16	SAM Delegate Assembly	Helena
July/Aug	31-2	SAM Administrators Institute	Helena
September	18-19	MASS/MCASE Fall Conference	Bozeman
October	18-20	MCEL	Billings