

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 8, 2009
Helena College of Technology - Helena, Montana

The January 8, 2009 meeting of the Montana Board of Education was called to order by Governor Brian Schweitzer.

ROLL CALL

Members present were: Regents Stephen Barrett, Clayton Christian, Lila Taylor, Todd Buchanan, Mitch Jessen and Board of Public Education members Patty Myers, Angela McLean, Storrs Bishop, Cal Gilbert, Sharon Carroll, Dr. Kirk Miller, Bernard Olson, and Katie Wood. Regents Lynn Morrison-Hamilton and Dr. Janine Pease were present by telephone conference call. Ex-officio members present were Governor Schweitzer, Superintendent Juneau and Commissioner Stearns.

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes from the September 11, 2008 Board of Education Meeting were unanimously approved as written.

INTRODUCTIONS

Governor Schweitzer introduced the new State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau, Board of Regents Chair, Stephen Barrett and Board of Public Education Chair, Patty Myers.

Patty Myers thanked those in attendance and commented that the Board of Education's shared goals were items of interest to the entire higher education and K-12 communities. She thanked Governor Schweitzer for leading the board into action and advocacy. Ms. Myers also commented that this would be Dr. Miller's last Board of Education meeting.

Regent Barrett commented that this is not an ordinary time and the Board won't have ordinary meetings for a while. He stated the Board is faced with serious and significant challenges that need to be addressed. He encouraged the members not to shrink from or be afraid, but do their best and step up to the plate.

Superintendent Juneau stated that it was an exciting day and that she was honored to be at the table. She stated she has put together a good team and that the OPI staff is fantastic. OPI is going to look at data to make policies based on data and focus on partnerships with private business, education leaders and other stakeholders to work for quality education for P-20. Superintendent Juneau introduced members of her personal staff who were in attendance, Ann Gilkey, Chief Counsel; Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff; Linda Kaiser, Communications Director and Joyce Silverthorne, P-20 Policy Advisor.

GOVERNOR SCHWEITZER'S OPENING REMARKS

Governor Schweitzer related that he had recently been at a governors' meeting where representatives from the Obama administration asked for projects to be funded with stimulus dollars. They wanted projects that are short term buildable and have a long term benefit. Economists from around the world have stated that having run away inflation is worse than recession and deflation is worse yet. The Obama administration wants projects that can be done immediately, but nothing that will need new maintenance dollars. Montana is in a good position relative to the new dollars because of the energy audits we did a year ago.

Governor Schweitzer stated we need to invest in human capital through our children by giving them a world class education. Most important is to invest in the youngest child which Montana has done by agreeing to full-time kindergarten. The payoff is slower but these children will be more likely to graduate, less likely to end up in the correction system and will earn higher wages. He feels we need to encourage education for life. Montana is moving forward with distance learning and dual credit which will offer more opportunities for students. Dual credit courses at the high school level build confidence in students showing them that they can be successful at the college level. Governor Schweitzer acknowledged his appreciation for the work that the Board of Regents has done to make credits more transferrable within the university system.

Governor Schweitzer commented on the importance of Indian Education for All. IEFA will help all students, as they become adults, have an appreciation of the unique culture we have in Montana. That appreciation will break down barriers. Montana was unique in asking the Tribal Colleges to write their tribal histories.

In comparing Montana to other states Governor Schweitzer said that 46 are in budget deficit situations. In Montana we are still on an increase although it's decreasing. We can maintain services and fund present law adjustments. We have to find the funds before we can add anything new. The Governor's budget includes a 4.8% increase in funding for K-12 education and a 5% increase in Higher Education funding.

In connection with energy and technology, the Governor pointed out that a very sophisticated refinery has been proposed to be built on the Crow Reservation for the purpose of converting coal to liquid diesel. Wind energy is a great opportunity for Montana. We need to create the business environment to attract companies to build wind farms. MSU-Northern is taking the lead in testing biofuels. The new lineman's course at COT-Butte is in operation. The Governor thanked the University Presidents and Board of Regents for creating a response to the needs of Montana.

Governor Schweitzer introduced homework assignments for 2009.

1. School readiness. Students need to be ready for college and work. We need to increase graduation rates, dual credit/dual enrollment, and global competitiveness in math and science.
2. Close tuition and salary gap. Education needs to be accessible and affordable, and credits need to be transferrable between the different institutions in the university system.
3. Coordinate a technology network and improve access to distance learning.
4. Grow opportunities and lead the United States in Indian Education for All.

OLD BUSINESS:

Governor Schweitzer turned the meeting over to Jan Lombardi for a report on the Kindergarten to College Workgroup. Jan highlighted comments from Erin William's letter to the Board. [http://governor.mt.gov/boed/docs/K-College_letter_01052009.pdf] In summary the group is looking at focusing on maximizing the use of technology in homework assignment areas and high school to college transition and alignment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Governor Schweitzer introduced the panel topic "Partnerships to Create 21st Century Learning in Montana" through a YouTube video "Did you Know; Shift Happens." The video provided facts on the current use of technology.

The Governor had invited presenters to discuss some of the new technology efforts going on in Montana.

Tyler Trevor from the Montana University System introduced "Green Campus" a virtual gateway to the Montana University System. The focus of "Green Campus" is to study green, work green and live green. The theme involves a statewide partnership and joint programming. They are looking for efficiencies. Many joint partnerships and programs are involved. Students come to "Green Campus" for distance education courses and career opportunities in emerging fields. "Green Campus" provides a link to all online courses in the Montana University System. Students can explore careers in energy fields, green technology, and energy-related degrees.

Adam deYong presented information on WIRED and Curriki. Adam stated that the WIRED program was initially located at UM-COT. Partnerships and joint programming have allowed them to involve other campuses. They currently have 24 partner organizations and are working to create a workforce pipeline for energy fields. They developed an industry advisory committee to make sure the programs are relevant for industry throughout Montana. MSU-N is developing partnerships in Montana and other states. Midsouth Community College in Arkansas came up for a site visit. MSU-N was hired to set up and develop a two year curriculum modeled after MSU-N's diesel program. The agreement allows for transferability of credits. Arkansas students go 2 years in Arkansas and then transfer to MSU-N to finish a 4 year curriculum.

A new web tool called Curriki, is an open source platform for curriculum. The original content remains, but schools can make changes for their curriculum. The current emphasis is on developing a K-12 pilot program for Montana for an energy curriculum. They are bringing trainers from Curriki to train on how to use this tool and put the program on line. They want to move Curriki from a K-12 level to college. The cost is minimal, and the opportunity is great.

Angela McLean reported on the Southwest Montana Career and Economic Development Summit, 2009 to be held in Anaconda. The goals are to increase the graduation rate and prepare for 21st century learning. The Summit will prompt student consideration of post secondary pathways; expose students to a variety of post secondary employment and career opportunities and engage students in meaningful dialogue regarding their post-secondary plans. They are encouraging students to start considering post-secondary paths earlier.

Terry Beaubois from the MSU Creative Research Lab introduced Go2CollegeMT. Developing new ideas with information technology is what this project is about. They are organizing the information and technology to reach underrepresented students and coordinating with student counselors and college representatives to increase the numbers of students going to college. They are continuing the trend toward digital technology in education in Montana and are building a Montana education online community for attending college. There are good programs out there they will be coordinating with.

iTunes University is supportive of collaborating with Montana. Apple said they would like Montana to be involved in the iTunes K-12 application. This grant can help facilitate that opportunity,

Go2CollegeMT has virtual college campus tours. They can help extend what others are doing including the OPI poster series. There is free access to the National Geographic Jason Project. They have met with Montana PBS and are determining how they can make use of the PBS broadcasting system.

Regent Buchanan asked if Terry was talking about replacing existing programs or complementing them.

Terry replied that it was complementary. He stated it was optimal to have a teacher in the classroom.

Regent Pease stated that she has had experience with this program in Poplar. The science teacher has made a number of assignments to this website. Evening homework is animated.

Dr. Miller commented on the great information received. He questioned how to take this information and put it into practice in K-12 schools. He would like to get models that

can be grabbed by teachers so they can make a connection with Montana kids using these tools and equipment.

Terry stated that is the next stage. This is engaging students to see something they want to do. This is where leadership comes in. Leadership is required in applying technology. Teachers need to apply guidance and leadership which is not supplied by the technology.

Governor Schweitzer commented that a few years ago we were just beginning to discuss distance learning and dual credits and now we're seeing it happen. We want Montana to be a leader, not a follower when it comes to education.

Jan Lombardi introduced proposed amendments to the bylaws.

[\[http://governor.mt.gov/boed/docs/ProposedBy-LawsAmendments121908.pdf\]](http://governor.mt.gov/boed/docs/ProposedBy-LawsAmendments121908.pdf)

Currently the Board of Education is bound by the bylaws to holding meetings in January and September of each year. The Governor's office would like to make this more flexible so that two meetings be held each year, one each in conjunction with the Board of Regents and Board of Public Education meetings, but that no specific months be specified.

Dr. Miller made a motion that the bylaws be amended as outlined by Ms. Lombardi. Regent Barrett seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Lombardi presented the unified budget and distributed the Yellow Book and exhibits. [\[http://www.mt.gov/budget/2008_Unified_Budget_Letter.pdf\]](http://www.mt.gov/budget/2008_Unified_Budget_Letter.pdf)

Regent Barrett made a motion that the Board of Education approve the unified budget as presented. Ms. Myers seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

The Governor opened the meeting for public comment.

Commissioner Stearns introduced Deputy Commissioner Sylvia Moore.

There was no other public comment.

Regent Christian moved that the meeting be adjourned and Regent Buchanan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Denise Juneau
Denise Juneau, Secretary