

## Minutes of Board of Education meeting

December 22, 2014

Governor Bullock called the meeting to order. Present were: Governor Bullock, Superintendent Juneau, Commissioner Christian; Board of Public Education members: Sharon Carroll, Chair, Bernie Olson, Mary Jo Bremner, John Edwards, Lila Taylor, Paul Andersen and Greta Gustafson; and Board of Regent members: Jeffrey Krauss, chair, William Johnstone, Major Robinson, Martha Sheehy, Paul Tuss and Mariah Williams.

Governor Bullock welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the board members for their service to Montana. He stated he was proud of the work the education community was doing and that they had a crucial role in the career pipeline. Through the efforts of the Board of Education and the education community, \$40 million was secured for education in Montana. Montana industry and business leaders around state have been brought to the table. Montana students have access to a cutting edge curriculum. Montana provides a world class education at an affordable price. Our colleges and universities have been named the best overall in the nation.

The education community is together in its push for early childhood education. Governor Bullock offered his congratulations to Superintendent Juneau for securing 10 million dollars in funding for early childhood education in the communities with the highest need.

Graduation Matters is also showing outstanding success. The partnership between higher education and K-12 education is working thanks to the leadership of Commissioner Christian and Superintendent Juneau. Montana has seen a 100% increase in dual enrollment. We can celebrate those accomplishments with an eye to the future.

The budget Governor Bullock is proposing to the 2015 Legislature includes his "Early Edge Montana" plan to make voluntary high quality education available to four year olds across Montana. Governor Bullock applauded the work the people in K-12 education and higher education put into developing the early childhood education standards.

This session's budget proposes to continue the work of last session to support education. The administration is working to redirect NRD payments to the quality facility school program. Governor Bullock is asking for a change in the drop out age, extending funding to 19 year olds, and increasing bonding capacity so schools can take care of their needs.

Governor Bullock stated his concern that families should not be priced out of providing a college education for their children and students should not be over-burdened with debt. Regent Johnston was instrumental in rolling out the Montana Main Street Project which seeks to address challenges in our state and identified pillars for growth: better education throughout, focus on nurturing emerging industries, and supporting the role colleges and universities play in business incubators. The Governor's budget asks for a historic investment in research and development at the postsecondary level.

Governor Bullock admitted his budget was ambitious but important. He recognized that he has asked a lot of the Board of Education and expressed his gratitude for the Board rising to the challenge.

He asked that the Board recognize the importance of the education community from early childhood to K-12 to post secondary to the future of our state.

Regent Tuss provided the Board of Regents' report and stated that everything they do for higher education in Montana focuses on the their strategic plan:

- accessibility and affordability
- workforce and economic development
- efficiency and effectiveness

Regent Tuss stated his appreciation for the Governor's Complete College Montana program which is important to businesses, individuals, and families. He stated the board's commitment to work with the Governor, Legislature, and Superintendent Juneau to make Montana a national leader in educational attainment growth that is affordable.

Board of Public Education Chair, Sharon Carroll was out of cell range so Peter Donovan, Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education provided the BPE report. The Board has hired Donna Sorenson as the new superintendent for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, approved bus transportation rules, and elected Sharon Carroll to serve as chair and Paul Andersen as vice chair.

The Board approved changes to Chapters 57 (Licensure) and 58 (Educator Preparation Programs) and adopted Chapter 63 (Early Childhood Education standards).

Mr. Donovan stated that the Board has concerns about some of the bill drafts, which may be an attempt to place restrictions on Board's constitutional rights in connection with K-12 education. He thanked Governor Bullock for his support of K-12 education.

Superintendent Juneau thanked Governor Bullock for providing a budget that prioritizes K-12 education, building on the last session's progress. Superintendent Juneau stated that her priorities for this year included raising the legal drop out age to 18. She thanked Governor Bullock for supporting this change and putting it in his budget. The drop out age has not changed for 90 years. Raising this expectation will mean a lot to parents and students.

Her second priority is to provide funding for schools that do the right thing and keep 19 year olds in school to complete their education. Montana is the only state in the country that does not support education for 19-year olds.

Superintendent Juneau is encouraging the provision of advanced placement training for Montana teachers which will supplement dual enrollment and help schools provide advanced placement classes at their schools. Her budget includes a request to bring the Digital Academy up to current funding so the MTDA can continue providing courses to students across the state.

Another policy issue she is encouraging is Bully Free Montana. This bill is not an OPI bill but will be supported by the Superintendent. Again, Montana is the only state in the country that doesn't have anti-bullying legislation.

The Superintendent's budget also requests funding for Schools of Promise. This funding would allow the OPI to bring on four additional communities into the program, providing them with wrap around coaches and support for students to reach their aspirations and dreams.

Superintendent Juneau stated that the OPI has a great relationship with the higher education community and that they were jointly working to improve education in Montana.

Regent Tuss mentioned what they do is governed by a three-pronged strategic plan.

- Dual enrollment – This program has made great progress with support from the Governor, historic partnerships with Superintendent Juneau and teachers in K-12 education. The Board of Regents approved reduced tuition for dual enrollment courses, which has generated 1.8 million in savings for students and families. This program works hand in hand with reducing the time to obtain a degree. The longer it takes, the more it costs and dual enrollment is a huge stepping stone to reducing the cost of obtaining a degree.
- Developmental education – Education partnerships are introducing education ready, a program to handle and place students. So students know where they need to be, they can use tools like Education Ready and dual enrollment as a way to remediate deficiencies quickly and get on track for a degree.
- Shift in way we fund education– They are committed to putting a certain amount into performance funding. They are now offering incentives to our institutions trying to reach areas of productivity in retention and completion. They are doing this across the system and will award institutions by performance funding.

Three hundred more bachelor's degrees were awarded in the last year and they have doubled the two-year degrees at associated schools. They are supportive of the Governor's budget and appreciate the Governor's support. Regent Tuss thanked the Governor and the Superintendent for the great working relationship they have.

The meeting was opened for public comment. No public comments were offered. If anyone wishes to submit public comment they can submit written testimony to [gov@mt.gov](mailto:gov@mt.gov) by December 23, 2014.

Meeting adjourned.

/s/ Denise Juneau

Denise Juneau, Secretary, Board of Education