



Governing Board Meeting Minutes June 13, 2022

Attendees

Members

Present	Absent	Member
X		Sharyl Allen , Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction
	X	Joel Graves (Chair), Superintendent, Eureka Public Schools
	X	Anthony Lapke (Vice Chair), Teacher, Glacier High School
X		Adrea Lawrence , Dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, University of Montana, Non-Voting
X		Luke Muszkiewicz , Chair, Board of Trustees, Helena School District No.1
X (At 3:02pm)		Brock Tessman , Deputy Commissioner, Academic, Research & Student Affairs, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
X		Jason Neiffer , Executive Director, Ex Officio, Non-Voting
X		Mike Agostinelli , Assistant Director/Curriculum Director, Ex Officio

Staff and Guests

- Christen Cole, Instructional Registrar, MTDA
- Anna East, Student Support and Content Specialist, MTDA
- Kate Peterson, Student Support and Content Specialist, MTDA
- Ryan Schrenk, EdReady Program Manager, MTDA
- Jason Leonard, EdReady Instructional Registrar, MTDA
- Virg Hale, EdReady Lead Ambassador, MTDA
- Jodie Hirsch, Instructional Projects Coordinator, MTDA
- Julia Troisi, Administrative Associate, MTDA
- McCall Flynn, Board of Public Education Executive Director
- Dennis Parman, Executive Director, MREA
- Diane Fladmo, MFPE

Minutes

1. Establish The Presence Of A Quorum
 - a. Director Neiffer established at 2:45 pm that there was not a quorum present and formal business could not be conducted.
2. Open Discussion
 - a. June 6, 2022, Joint Meeting of Interim Education and Interium Education Budget
 - i. Director Neiffer facilitated a discussion about the June 2022 Constitutional Officer Education Meeting on June 6, 2022, at the Montana Capitol Building.
 1. Board member Allen discussed the positive nature of the meeting and the willingness of all those present to look at evolving Montana's education system to be more flexible and responsive to student needs. The meeting established a case for change broadly in Montana education and that MTDA can be a part of this movement.
 2. Board member Muszkiewicz that several meeting participants mentioned MTDA as a resource that could help increase opportunities for students across the state. He noted that it is an innovative practice when districts partner with MTDA.
 3. Board of Public Education Executive Director McCall Flynn commented that the meeting produced an excellent discussion about education practice. Flynn discussed that some districts struggle with how to innovate, and MTDA could play a role in assisting those schools.
3. Establish the Presence of a Quorum
 - a. At 3:03 pm, Board Member Tessman joined the meeting, marking a quorum. Since the Chair and Vice Chair were absent, Dr. Tessman served as Chair *Pro Tempore*, as the longest serving member of the board. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.
4. Approve Minutes of the May 8, 2022 (document attached)
 - a. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman called for a review of the minutes of the May 2022 meeting.
 - b. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman asked Director Neiffer regarding the board meeting schedule for the 22-23 school year. Dr. Neiffer commented that he included a copy of the proposed meeting schedule on the agenda. After a review of the board by-laws, the board is scheduled to meet more times than called for in the by-laws. However, he anticipated the need for regular check-ins with the board due to the upcoming legislature. Dr. Neiffer provided a list of the scheduled meetings:
 - i. Monday, August 8, 2022
 - ii. Monday, September 12, 2022
 - iii. Monday, October 10, 2022
 - iv. Monday, December 12, 2022
 - v. Monday, January 9, 2023
 - vi. Monday, February 13, 2023 (As Needed)
 - vii. Monday, March 13, 2023
 - viii. April Face-to-Face Meeting, TBD
 - ix. Monday, May 8, 2023
 - x. Monday, June 12, 2023
 - c. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman called for approval of the minutes. Member Allen moved to approve the minutes. Member Muszkiewicz seconded. Board approved unanimously.
5. Approval of Expenditures Through May 31, 2022 (document attached)
 - a. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman asked Director Neiffer for comments regarding the budget report. Dr. Neiffer commented that he will have a final FY22 report in August and that Dr. Neiffer, Assistant Director Agostinelli, and Business Manager Marker are working on a new format for the board that is more in line with the University of Montana's budget breakdowns.

- b. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman called for approval of the budget report. Member Muszkiewicz moved to approve the report. Member Allen seconded the motion. Board approved unanimously.
6. Public Comment
 - a. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman called for public comment. No member of the public asked for time.
7. Return to Discussion of the June Education Meeting
 - a. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman returned the board to the open conversation regarding the June Constitutional Officers Education meeting.
 - b. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman commented that he was at the entire meeting and was impressed by the number of people at the table, the sense of working together to improve the system, and the desire to embrace innovation and technology. Dr. Tessman commented that there is an important opportunity for MTDA to work with OCHE to increase dual enrollment and early college opportunities, especially in CTE areas.
 - c. Board Member Lawrence commented that she also listened to as much of the meeting before moving to a scheduled Chapter 55 meeting. She commented that she was not surprised that the research presented about the relationship between education and economics is well-established but also noted that more recent research looks at equity and socio-economic status.
 - d. Board Member Allen also quoted from Senator Shannon O'Brien that 75% of our state general fund goes to education and 70% of property taxes go to education.
 - e. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman commented on the global trends in education compared to the United States and the importance of investment in public education.
 - f. Director Neiffer commented on the meeting and the role of MTDA in the overall system. MTDA staff remains committed to looking at our programs and practices and showing leadership in evolving how we provide services to Montana schools.
 - g. Diane Fladmo from MFPE also comment that she is struck by the possibilities from the meeting. She urged people to be patient since it takes time for large system reforms. Ms. Fladmo noted that this is a good time to take advantage of the times to help schools adopt new practices.
8. May 25, 2022, Meeting at OPI Regarding Project Sirius (Neiffer)
 - a. Director Neiffer and Assistant Director Agostinelli describe their meetings on May 25th with OPI Leadership and Staff, organized by Board Member Allen. Dr. Neiffer and Mr. Agostinelli commented on collaboration opportunities and work with OPI staff on funding sources to pay for MTDA cost-sharing.
9. 22-23 Meeting Schedule
 - a. Director Neiffer commented that Vice Chair Lapke's class schedule will decide the time of the meetings.
10. Board Comments
 - a. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman called for final comments.
 - b. Board Member Muszkiewicz thanks the MTDA staff for their hard work and encourages the staff to take opportunities to unplug this summer.
11. Adjourn
 - a. Chair *Pro Tem* Tessman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Allen motioned, Member Muszkiewicz seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.