



Governing Board Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023

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		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

- Sarah Marker, Business Manager, MTDA
- Christen Cole, Distance Learning Operations Manager, 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
- Robyn Nuttall, Instructional Program Director, MTA
- Jodie Hirsch, Instructional Projects Coordinator, MTDA
- Caitlin Byers, Student Support and Content Specialist, MTDA
- Anna East, Tribal Relations and Education Fellow, MTDA

Minutes

1. Establish The Presence Of A Quorum - Chair Graves established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm.
2. Public Comment - Chair Graves called for public comment. No public comment was offered.
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval Minutes of the December 2022 Meeting
 - i. Board member Muszkiewicz moved to accept the minutes; Board member Lapke seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.
 - b. Approval of Financial Report
 - i. Business manager Marker presented the report to the board. Marker noted that nothing was notable about the budget report for this time of year and that expenditures were as planned.
 - ii. Director Neiffer noted that modeling work has started on the FY24 and FY25 budgets.
 - iii. Board member Lapke moved to accept the budget report, Board member Muszkiewicz seconded.
 - iv. Board member Muszkiewicz asked about enrollments, and Assistant Director/Curriculum Director Agostinelli noted that enrollment is open and ongoing and we would have additional information in a future meeting.
 - v. The board voted unanimously to accept the financial report.
4. Discussion/Updates
 - a. Annual Evaluation of Executive Director Jason Neiffer (Chair Graves)
 - i. Chair Graves noted this activity is a personal issue, and this portion of the meeting will be closed because the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure, per MCA 2-3-203.
 - ii. The board went into executive session at 2:41 pm and left executive session at 3:42pm.
 - b. 2023 Montana Legislature Update (Neiffer)
 - i. Executive Director Neiffer briefed the board on Legislative matters. Neiffer and Agostinelli will testify in front of the Joint Budget Subcommittee E on Tuesday, January 10. They plan to update the group on the status of FY22 and FY23 initiatives and future initiatives including the ongoing adaptation of our credit recovery model to allow all students to take advantage of the proficiency-based assessment model and the development of a framework for student skill development in an online environment. They will ask the Subcommittee to offer an inflation adjustment to help cover costs from the

anticipated negotiated salary increase for MUS employees. They will also ask the Subcommittee to consider the Clearinghouse expansion model.

- ii. Neiffer also noted that there might be a bill from Senator Dan Salomon (Ronan) regarding the MTDA board. Based on early information, it seeks to clarify how members get on the board.
- iii. There is a bill request regarding from Representative Bill Mercer (Billings). Neiffer has contacted Rep. Mercer to see if the staff can provide more information.

c. February Meeting Information (Neiffer)

- i. Executive Director Neiffer noted that an optional meeting is scheduled for February at the board's request in case of any Legislative issue requiring discussion. Neiffer said that he and Chair Graves would poll the board in early February to determine the appetite to meet.

d. Save the Date! Innovation Runs Through It Symposium, July 2023, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, University of Montana, Missoula, MT (Neiffer)

- i. Executive Director Neiffer noted that as part of the EdReady grant, the Washington Foundation has asked MTDA to host a summer education symposium. The MTDA staff is planning a three-day event in July focused on capacity-building for teachers and administrators to approach education in a flexible, student-centered way.

5. Adjourn - Chair Graves adjourned the meeting at 3:53pm.