



Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date

October 10th, 2023

Meeting Called to Order (Time)

3:01 PM

Attendance

Name	Position	Present @ Roll (Otherwise, time individual joined)	Time Leaving
Rep. Fred Anderson	Member of the House of Representatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Kara Edgar	Montana School Board Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
McCall Flynn	Member of the Board of Public Education or Designee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Dylan Klapmeier	Governor or Designee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Christy Mock-Stutz	Superintendent of Public Instruction or Designee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Dr. Jason Neiffer	Program Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sen. Dan Soloman	Member of the Senate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Joseph Thiel	Member of the Board of Regents or Designee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Guests

Name	Position	Present
Larry Crowder	Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Name	Position	Present
Dr. Daniel Lee	Dean, University of Montana Phyllis J. Washington College of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Staff

Name	Position	Present
Mike Agostinelli	Assistant Director/Curriculum Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Bechtold	MTDA Distance Learning Ambassador	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Caitlin Byers	Student Support and Content Specialist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jason Leonard	EdReady Operations Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Marker	Business Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robyn Nuttall	Distance Learning Program Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kate Peterson	Student Support and Content Specialist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ally Riggs	Assistant Program Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Schrenk	EdReady Project Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Joseph Thiel serving as Chair Pro Tem.
- Roll call was taken by Clerk Ally Riggs.

Election of Officers

- Nominations were opened for the position of chair. Senator Dan Soloman nominated Representative Fred Anderson. No other nominations were made.
- Nominations were opened for vice chair. Member Dylan Klapmeier and Member McCall Flynn both nominated Chair Pro Tem Thiel. No other nominations were made.
- Chair Pro Tem Thiel called for a voice vote. Representative Anderson was elected chair and Thiel was elected Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Review of Bylaws

- Member Flynn noted a number of language corrections needed in the September 2023 Proposed Bylaws. Vice Chair Thiel noted additional issues. Assistant Director of MTDA Mike Agostinelli made the suggested edits to the Bylaws.

- Vice Chair Thiel moved to approve the bylaws as corrected. Member Klapmeier seconded. The bylaws were approved unanimously.

Appointment of Board of Directors Seats

- Dr. Jason Neiffer, Executive Director of Montana Digital Academy reviewed House Bill 749 language specifying the board configuration requesting a Montana-licensed school administrator appointed by the voting members of the MTDA board. This letter will be sent to Rob Watson, Executive Director of School Administrators of Montana. Member Klapmeier requested three resumes for the MTDA Board of Directors to look at. No objections were heard.
- Executive Director Dr. Neiffer recommended reaching out to current MTDA and Glacier High School teacher Anthony Lapke about continuing as the non-voting teacher representative seat. There were no objections.

FY24 Meeting Dates

- Proposed meeting dates for FY24 were presented. Meetings are preliminarily scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00pm.
- Member Flynn requested a location be determined soon for the April in-person meeting. Executive Director Dr. Neiffer requested input on location preference, no preference was shown. Executive Director Dr. Neiffer detailed that the face-to-face meeting may be longer, and has historically included strategic planning. Vice Chair Thiel inquired about structured time for board education, given this is a newer group.
- Member Flynn moved to approve the meeting dates. Vice Chair Thiel seconded. The meeting dates were approved unanimously.

Review of June 23, 2023 Board Minutes

- Member Flynn noted spelling corrections needed in the June 2023 Minutes.
- Member Flynn moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Vice Chair Thiel seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

FY24 Budget and Financial Report

- Business Manager Sarah Marker presented an overview of the FY24 budget and August financial report. There were no questions.
- Vice Chair Thiel moved to approve the FY24 budget and financial report as presented. Member Klapmeier seconded. The budget and financial report were approved unanimously.

Clearinghouse Implementation Plan

- Executive Director Neiffer presented an overview of the Clearinghouse implementation plan and timeline. The timeline was aimed to be completed by Fall of 2024.
- Member Klapmeier requested details regarding different school's interests in specific programming. Executive Director Neiffer offered an explanation of outreach that has been completed.
- Vice Chair Thiel requested a status update on the hiring process for the three additional staff positions.
- Member Klapmeier moved to approve the Clearinghouse implementation plan as presented. Member Christy Mock-Stutz seconded. The implementation plan and timeline was approved unanimously.

Topics for Future Meetings

- Board members suggested several topics for future meetings, including:
 - Use of MTDA for emergency staffing shortages

- Tribal language programs
- CTE programs and courses
- Dual enrollment programs
- Jobs for Montana Graduates collaboration with the Department of Labor
- Participation by tribal colleges or schools

Adjournment

- Vice Chair Thiel moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Klapmeier seconded. The meeting was adjourned.
- The next meeting will be held November 21, 2023 at 3:00pm via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned (Time)

4:20 PM
