



**Montana Digital Academy Governing Board Meeting
October 11, 2021**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Members:

Chair Joel Graves, Principal, Lincoln County High School
Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair, Board of Trustees, Helena School District No.1
Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner, Academic, Research & Student Affairs, Office of the
Commissioner of Higher Education
Anthony Lapke, Vice-Chair, Teacher, Glacier High School
Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction

Staff:

Robert Currie, Executive Director, MTDA
Jason Neiffer, Assistant Director/Curriculum Director, MTDA
Mike Agostinelli, Instructional Program Director, MTDA
Christen Cole, Instructional Registrar, MTDA
Mary Ellen Currie, Budget and Data Manager, MTDA
Ryan Schrenk, EdReady Program Manager, MTDA
Jason Leonard, EdReady Instructional Registrar, MTDA
Virg Hale, EdReady Lead Ambassador
Jodie Hirsch, Instructional Projects Coordinator
Julia Troisi, Administrative Associate

Members & Staff Absent:

Adrea Lawrence, Dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, University of Montana

Call to order:

Meeting called to order by Chair Graves at 2:30 p.m.

Approve minutes of September 13, 2021 Meeting:

Board Member Allen moved to approve the minutes, Board Member Muszkiewicz seconded.
September minutes approved unanimously.

Approve Expenditures through September 30, 2021:

Board Member Muszkiewicz moved to approve the expenditures through September 30, 2021. Vice Chair Anthony Lapke seconded the motion. Executive Director Robert Currie made some comments regarding the implementation of the cost sharing process. He pointed out the progress the MTDA team had made in working through the processes and protocols with the UM business office, the development of our invoicing process including the system for contacting schools, the accounts receivable process and other internal operational functions related to the new cost sharing component. Following discussion, Chair Graves called for approval—unanimous.

Letter of Retirement/Resignation from Robert Currie, Executive Director

Board Member Muszkiewicz moved to accept the Letter of Retirement from Executive Director Robert Currie. Board Member Tessman seconded the motion. Following discussion with several Board members indicating that acceptance was with regret and commending Currie on his professionalism and hard work in establishing MTDA as its original Executive Director, Chair Graves called for approval—unanimous.

Approve Search Plan - Action Item

Vice Chair Anthony Lapke moved to approve the search plan for a new Executive Director position. Board Member Luke Muszkiewicz seconded the motion. Following discussion, Chair Graves called for approval—unanimous.

Update - Native American language and culture project

Executive Director Robert Currie updated the board on the progress made by the MTDA team on the Native American Language and Culture Project.

Discussion item – Additional discussion of expansion of governing Board to seven voting members

Executive Director Currie started the discussion by reminding the Board that he placed this item on the October agenda as we agreed in September to discuss and possibly vote on this topic in future meetings. Board Member Allen suggested we explore the possibility of having state wide representation on the board. Board Member Muszkiewicz committed to making some contacts and opening a dialogue regarding this topic and bring back any information to future meetings. Executive Director Currie stated that he would do the same with some of the legislators on the interim Education Committee where the idea was first mentioned for possible consideration.

Adjourn

Chairman Graves adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

File Attachment: Letter of retirement/resignation Robert Currie, Executive Director MTDA