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**Montana Small School Alliance**

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# UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

# Montana Small Schools Alliance

**QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING 11:00 A.M.**

##### Wednesday, June 30, 2021

**MSSA Office, 220 N. Montana St. (via Zoom)**

**Dillon, MT 59725**

**Dan Rask is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: MSSA Quarterly Board Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89418209804?pwd=MTFBWnVaR3BmNzhwSDJjb0lOR1ozdz09](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89418209804?pwd%3DMTFBWnVaR3BmNzhwSDJjb0lOR1ozdz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw2oyDQYTkBIDUJ_P_ERtK0w)  
  
Meeting ID: 894 1820 9804  
Passcode: 611735

**Members present:** *Jayne Downey, Erin Lipkind, Carolyn Hall, Laura Strauss, Linda Sunderlin, Linda Marsh, Dan Rask.*

**11:00 a.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair:** *Jayne called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.*

**11:02 a.m. 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 28, 2021 Board Meeting:** *Erin moved and Carolyn seconded approval of the minutes as presented.* **Motion carried.**

**11:05 a.m. 3. CHANGES/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA (action):** *Dan asked to table the policy updates as he has not fully digested the changes from the legislative session. It will be placed on the September agenda. Laura moved and Carolyn seconded acceptance of the agenda as modified.* **Motion carried.**

**11:10 a.m. 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (action item)**

B. Standards Discussion (discussion/possible action): *After some discussion, the Board wants to continue to address the "Standards" program and explore using waivers for the schools who contact MSSA but fall over the enrollment number of 126. Laura moved and Carolyn seconded placing this item on the September agenda.* **Motion carried.**

**11:30 a.m. 5. NEW BUSINESS (information/action items)**

1. NREA Travel Award (Jules Waber) for 2021-2022: *Carolyn moved and Erin seconded advertising for candidates for this award which will be in Indianapolis, Indiana next November 11th, 12th, 2021.* **Motion carried.**
2. 2020-2021 MSSA Budget Draft: *Laura moved and Carolyn seconded acceptance of the 2021-2022 budget as presented.* **Motion carried.**
3. Update Rural Policy Manual (first reading): *Tabled until September.*
4. ***Executive Director's Position (discussion/action***) ***12:00 p.m.:*** *After some discussion and dialogue with Linda Marsh and Dan Rask, Carolyn moved and Erin seconded that Dan would remain through July @ 1/12th of $52,900 as an independent contractor. In August, Dan would assist in training Linda Marsh and log a daily rate at the same amount for the time logged in orientation of the Interim Director, Linda Marsh. Linda Marsh would begin August 1st and remain in the position through December 31st, 2021 @ 1/12th of $49,000 each month. The MSSA would also cover Linda's deductions as she intends to be an employee. That total amounts to the $52,900 budgeted. Dan will draw up contracts for signatures as soon as possible.* **Motion carried.**

**12:30 p.m. 6. MSSA REPORTS**

1. **MSSA Update – Dan**: *Dan indicated that contracts for August, September, November and February are all signed and returned to the office. He did not contract with "Beyond the Chalk" for next April as the owners of the company have accepted superintendent positions and Dan recommends going in another direction for April 2022. August is virtual, September may be virtual also. We will know by August 1st. The NREA Annual Convention is in Indy this coming November and Joni Carroll will be recognized for her National Teacher of the Year award at that time. Phil Gerrik and Scott Turney will be inducted into the Rural Hall of Fame at that conference. Dan also updated the Board on issues dealing with ESSER money allocations from OPI.*
2. **MSSA Office - Linda**: *Linda presented the monthly financials and the budget continues to be strong. The Wells Fargo branch in Dillon will close mid-September and we will need to look at another bank. Linda thinks the Commerce Bank of Dillon is a good local option. Erin commented that we should look at a bank that has multiple branches to avoid having to change again when a permanent director is in place. Linda Marsh, Linda Sunderlin and Dan will pursue another banking option over the summer.*
3. **MACSS - Erin***: Erin reported that the Fall MACSS will be a live conference in Ennis and Virginia City, Montana September 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 2021. The County Superintendent of the Year will be announced at this meeting. Erin has been selected to serve on the Chapter 58 review team for OPI.*
4. **MSU - Jayne**: *MSU is focused on getting students back into classrooms in a normal sequence. They have graduated their first set of rural counselors and six have contracted positions in Montana at this writing. Sixteen rural teachers have graduated from MSU and 10 are under contract currently. MSU is seeking a grant from a foundation for a mentoring program for rural teachers in Montana. They have 118 interested mentors for the program.*
5. **Western - Laura**: *Western is enduring a large re-structuring program in the education department and as a whole. They have a new Chancellor and an interim provost. Western will open fully for business July 1, 2021 and intends to offer the full slate of classed live on campus.*
6. **MTSBA - Vacant**
7. **Consortium Director - Dean Phillips**: *No report given.*

**Next meeting time, date and location:** *Wednesday, September 29th in the office in Dillon @ 11 a.m. Lunch to follow at Sparkys.*

**1:30 p.m. 7. ADJOURN:** *Erin moved and Carolyn seconded adjournment of the meeting at 1:48 p.m.* **Motion carried.**