



Montana Small School Alliance

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Approved Minutes
Montana Small Schools Alliance
June 21, 2023, 9:00 A.M.
MSSA Office, 220 N. Montana St. (via Zoom)
Dillon, MT 59725

Members present: Carolyn Hall, Jayne Downey, Laura Straus, Pam Birkland (via phone), Linda Sunderlin, Janelle Beers
No MTSBA representative at this time.

- 9:11 a.m.** **1. CALL TO ORDER** – Carolyn called the meeting to order at 9:11 A.M.
- 9:13 a.m.** **2. Approval of Minutes for May 4, 2023**
The minutes were approved with the changes to the MSSA reports that were sent out with the agenda materials. Pam moved and Laura seconded.
Motion carried.
- 9:17 a.m.** **3. CHANGES/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA (Action)**
There were no changes to the agenda. Laura moved and Jayne seconded.
Motion carried.
- 9:20 a.m.** **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Discussion & Action items)**
- A. Revised 2023-2024 workshop Dates, Sites, Presenters- Updates
Janelle shared information on the how the workshops have changed and why. The Board noted that we seem to be PD rich which is a very good thing. Reminder to use Monday and Friday dates as much as possible for our small schools. Short discussion as to why schools may not take advantage of workshops. The Board noted they should approve the list officially. Jayne moved and Laura seconded the plan. **Motion carried.**
 - B. MSSA and School Board Policies
The Board asked that Janelle remind the member schools that we do not have Board Policies as one of our services any longer. Let the membership know why and where they can get those services. Janelle noted that they have been told several times, but will put it in her newsletter again and remind them at the Standards Conferences. No action required.

C. DOJ Stop Grant Updates, MHRN Resignation, Schools that have signed on.

Janelle reported that the Grant is moving forward with several planned events around our workshops. The MHRN position is open with the resignation of Kelsey McGill. The position has been advertised and a new hire will be in place by August. To date 16 schools have used some Grant service and 8 schools are fully signed on.

9:50 a.m. 5. **NEW BUSINESS (Discussion& Action items)**

A. Jules Waber Travel Award for 2023- discussion and decision

The Board received and reviewed the applications for the Jules Waber award. Discussion followed. The Board asked Janelle to encourage the awardees to connect with each other at the conference and in reporting. They also encouraged them to connect with other Montana attendees. The Board agreed that since funds allowed they would send two applicants to the National Conference. Future applications should have a statement that addresses sending more than one applicant if funds allow. The 2023 awards will go to Alexis Nikirk, Spring Creek School and Tracey Pare, Melstone. Pam moved and Laura seconded. **Motion carried.**

B. Executive Director Performance Evaluation and Contract for July 2023-June 2024

Carolyn let the Board know that she had shared the evaluation with Janelle prior to the meeting. They discussed salary and other considerations. Discussion followed. The Board voted to rehire Janelle for another year. The Board also thanked Carolyn for her work on the contract. Jayne moved and Pam seconded. **Motion carried.**

C. Membership Update

Janelle stated that we have 6-7 new schools as MSSA members. Changes in one of the consortiums in the north is attributed to some of the additions. Linda reported that payments are slow this time of year but that is normal. We have quite a few new County Superintendents, Clerks and Teachers in the schools which can make for many questions on what MSSA is and what we do. We are answering all of these as they come in. Linda is working with MAPS for August training, they have new owners and new people in charge of our account. Everything is in place for the August Standards Workshops. Total numbers will be provided at the September meetings. We are on track to meet and exceed last year's numbers. No action required.

D. Budget- present and future planning

The Board had asked for a discussion on where we stand for budget future planning. In the past a \$40,000 carryover for hard times was considered adequate. With an understanding of current conditions, membership, and future planning the Board discussed the possibility of \$80,000-\$100,000 as a carryover. Keeping in mind the cost of services now and into the future. The Board will continue to review this for future planning. They Board also discussed the last audit/review and what cycle we should use for those services.

11:20 a.m.

7. **MSSA Reports**

Executive Director- Janelle gave most of her information throughout the meeting. The MTSBA member will be in place after their elections. Updates on meetings with OPI, committee work, and work schedule.

MSSA Office- Linda- Agreements coming in every day. We are in good shape financially. Most of her report was in the New Business section of the agenda.

MACCS- Pam and Carolyn- Pam discussed the Fall County Superintendent Conference in Malta, September 28, 29. Rob Watson will recap all of the Legislation for them at the meeting. Lots of changes for County Superintendents.

MSU- Jayne- agreed to share news over lunch.

Western- Laura- agreed to share news over lunch.

MTSBA- Absent-

12:06 p.m.

8. **ADJOURN:** Laura moved and Jayne seconded adjourning the meeting to lunch.
Motion carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be our Quarterly Meeting via Zoom on September 20, 2023 from 11:00 a.m.