

Board of Public Education – MSDB Report: October 24, 2019

Call Information:

Donna Sorensen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Name	Present	Absent
Carol Clayton-Bye		X
Darlene Schottle		X
Donna Schmidt	X	
Donna Sorensen	X	
Jim Kelly	X	
Mary Jo Bremner	X	
Paul Furthmyre	X	
Pete Donovan		X
Others Attending:		

2. Approval of Agenda

D/HH=Deaf or Hard of Hearing, B/VI=Blind or Visually Impaired, DB=Deafblind

**Some numbers below indicate ongoing total since the beginning of the school year*

Agenda Item	Report																																					
Numbers	<p><u>EDUCATION NUMBERS</u></p> <p><i>Blind/Low Vision Department</i></p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><i>M</i></th> <th><i>F</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PreSchool</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary (K-6)</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle School (7-8)</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High School (9-12)</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>10</td> <td>7 (17)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Deaf/Hard of Hearing Department</i></p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><i>M</i></th> <th><i>F</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PreSchool</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary (K-6)</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle School (7-8)</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High School (9-12)</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>10</td> <td>10 (20)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Update: there are currently 41 students. This impacts the number of 10-Day Observations as we have accepted some of those students.</p> <p><u>CAMPUS VISITS* 4 total</u></p>			<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	PreSchool	2	2	Elementary (K-6)	3	3	Middle School (7-8)	1	0	High School (9-12)	4	2	Total	10	7 (17)		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	PreSchool	2	0	Elementary (K-6)	2	3	Middle School (7-8)	1	1	High School (9-12)	5	6	Total	10	10 (20)
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	<p><u>10-DAY OBSERVATIONS</u></p> <p>*Total placement requests: 7 (VI-0, DHH-6, DB-1)</p> <p>* 10-days in progress: 3 (VI-0, DHH-3, DB-0)</p> <p>*Total Placement recommended: 2 (VI-0, DHH-2, DB-0)</p> <p>*Records being gathered: 2 (VI-0, DHH-1, DB-1)</p> <p>*Placement req. changed by Family: 0</p> <p><u>COTTAGE: 12 total students</u></p> <p>9 - DHH, 3 - VI 3 - Boys, 9 - Girls</p> <p><u>LEAP PROGRAM</u></p> <p>1 male VI 1 female VI</p>																																					

	<p>*Robert “Bob” Herbold (1956) and his family visited from Arizona this summer.</p> <p>*Deaf Family from Maryland was traveling through Montana this summer. Happened to find out about MSDB being in Great Falls and they stopped by for a quick tour.</p> <p>*Matt Meinhardt (1992) and his partner Katie (former teacher at Iowa School for the Deaf) visited the week of Orientation.</p> <p>*Two Outreach VI students for intensive training in Assistive Technology, O&M, and braille</p>	<p><u>OUTREACH</u> <u>Data as of 9/30/2019</u> 242 Family Contacts D/HH 324 School Contacts D/HH 60 Other Contacts D/HH</p> <p>222 Family Contacts B/VI 347 School Contacts B/VI 60 Other Contacts B/VI</p> <p><u>Data as of</u> Prof Dev In-services / *Number in Attendance</p>
Administration	<p><u>Overview</u> Each Program began the year at full speed and there has been no stopping. The Education Program continues discussions about trauma and how trauma may have impacted our students and their families. Both DHH and VI departments continue their professional development in sensory-specific learning. The Student Life Program has already offered many “extra” activities and events for both Cottage and Day students. The Outreach Program has been busy planning enrichment weekends and professional development opportunities for staff members across the state. The Business Office keeps the school running financially and the Maintenance Program keeps our campus aesthetically pleasing and functioning properly.</p> <p><u>COSB and APH</u> I recently returned from Louisville, KY after attending the Council of Schools and Services for the Blind (COSB) Leadership Institute and the Annual Meeting of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). At the Leadership Institute, I co-presented one workshop about Program Analysis. I took two programs – Summer Skills Camp/Blind Camp and the Family Learning Weekend for the Blind and performed an in-depth cost analysis and compared that cost to the impact. I worked with Nancy Niebrugge to develop a template for all costs involved. We had great discussions about the impacts of programs and how to better measure the impacts. I also presented/facilitated two sessions – one about the successful things we are doing and how we get funding for those things and the second about all the things you wish you knew when you started as Superintendent. Both sessions were well attended and most attendees participated.</p> <p><u>Numbers</u> At the previous meeting, Board Member Tammy Lacey asked for number trends. Please find those attached at the end of this report. The document is Program Indicators and is a two page document.</p>	
Union Items	<p><u>MFPE</u> We continue the negotiations process. We have one date in October and are hoping that we reach agreements.</p> <p><u>UFCW</u> We had one Labor Management Committee meeting. The discussion was good. Follow up happened related to the issues that were brought up. A second meeting was scheduled.</p>	
Education Program	<p>Currently the education department has several 10-day observations happening with prospectus students. Our DHH preschool room has grown from one student to five, with two of those students being 10-day observations. Also in the DHH, we currently have an eighth grader and senior completing observations. For all four of these students, we are fairly confident we can provide an accessible education to meet their needs. We received</p>	

	<p>word this week that two students who are visually impaired will be referred to our VI preschool. We are excited for those referrals. We also just completed an intense training with two students who are visually impaired from a public school. We are hoping that these students enjoyed our campus and that we will see a future referral for them.</p> <p>We are still without a physical education teacher. We have hired a full-time sub for this position. The substitute and the students have been doing very well with each other and the situation is being addressed as best as possible. I am encouraging the substitute to possibly pursue her teaching credentials. We have two teachers working on their credentials in our DHH department. Our ASL teacher is currently working under a class 5 certificate as she works on her special education degree. One of our DHH/VI mixed staff members is working on special education endorsement via the OPI internship program. The rest of the Education staff positions are filled.</p> <p>As a part of the Golden Triangle Curriculum Consortium, we participated in the advisory committee meeting in September. Our science teacher and curriculum director attended the science standards review here in Great Falls.</p> <p>We finally have Google working at MSDB. This was a longer process than what was expected, as we are a government agency. We spent a few weeks corresponding with Google proving that we are a public school. Teachers have received training on Google Classroom. Some teachers have begun to use the program for instruction. Administration is using Google to track teacher professional development training, lesson plans, and extended contract reporting.</p> <p>To help branch our services from the main campus, we have begun teaching sign language and assistive technology online. We currently have 10 students around the state taking the sign language class and the assistive technology class will begin soon with students in the Bitterroot Valley.</p> <p>Our Expressions of Silence (EOS) group has already begun their concert series by playing at the DCCW banquet. MSDB students participated in several Native American activities during Native American week. The VI Department went on a field trip to a horse ranch to learn proper care for larger animals.</p>
<p>Student Life Program</p>	<p>At this time, all of the positions for the Student Life Program have been filled. Presently, we have one staff who has been out on FMLA and is making improvements every day.</p> <p>Cottage students and some of the day students enjoyed a weekend of fun over the Labor Day weekend. Students had a picnic at Black Eagle park, Great Falls Voyagers baseball game, mini-golf, swimming in our pool and had several BBQ's on campus. It was really a nice weekend for the students. The MSDB Foundation funds these activities.</p> <p>Cottage students traveled home on Friday, September 20th and returned on Monday, September 23rd. This is our third year of a three-year contract with the Helena Town Car Company. So far, we have been pleased with their service and ability to work with us and our staff on the travel days.</p> <p>Cottage students and day students are involved in numerous after school activities held on the MSDB campus. This includes the Expressions of Silence, Cane Club, Flying Hooves, the Jogging Jokers is just now taking off, and the kids are enjoying the activities.</p> <p>Several of our students are involved in middle school basketball, Eagle Mount Rock Climbing and are gearing up for the Eagle Mount Sled Hockey program. Student Life staff will transport the students and remain with them during the activity.</p> <p>The Student Life Counselors (Lou Collins, hired in February, Erin Faulkner, hired as Counselor in August, and Cheri Luongo, who has been here for about 4 years) have been</p>

	<p>working on re-vamping the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP). They have added some mandatory workshops to include a variety of different topics. This is really a great opportunity for our students. These individuals have an abundant amount of energy, creativity and are making a positive impact on our program.</p> <p>On September 25th the Student Life program hosted an open house for the education staff. The students served as tour guides and were just thrilled to share their “home away from home” with their teachers and other staff.</p> <p>On September 27th, students attended the ASL CAN Film Festival. Students were able to enjoy the various short films they helped script, film, and edit while in attendance at the ASL CAN Film Camp held this past summer. The students enjoyed the camp as well watching the films.</p> <p>On Saturday, October 5th students and staff attended a Griz game in Missoula. We had about 45 students and staff attending this event. The day was a huge day for our students and staff. Donna Schmidt and her family as well as Jim Kelly’s family hosted the annual tailgate gathering. Funding for this event comes from the GrizKidz organization and the MSDB Foundation.</p> <p>Students will travel home for the MEA/Teacher Convention on Wednesday, October 16th and will return on Sunday, October 20th.</p> <p>The Student Life Program will host three (3) formal dinners during the upcoming school year. The members of the Board of Public Education are invited to each dinner and will be sent an invitation for each dinner. The dinners will be held on; Sunday, November 24th, Sunday, December 15 and Sunday, March 29. All of the dinners will start at 5:00 PM and are held in the Dining Room located between Yellowstone and Glacier Cottages.</p>
Outreach Program	<p>Consultants are out on the road and in schools and homes on a daily basis now. VI Consultants are working hard to get the Prodigy Connect 12s out to students who are in need of the low vision devices. VI Outreach is planning to host Untangling the Dots (UTD) on the MSDB Campus Oct 17-18.</p> <p>OverHere Consulting has created a Facebook page for Prodigy users with short tutorial videos related to using the Prodigy and accessing all the features. These videos have been helpful with Consultants and students.</p> <p>DHH Consultants are working hard to find interpreters for students in public schools. They are planning for Deaf Enrichment Weekend (DEW) on the MSDB Campus Oct 25-26. Younger students will have a field trip to Tilleras Nursery and older students will have a session about transitioning from high school to life after high school.</p> <p>Several Outreach Consultants participated with the Deaf Blind Project to attend the WREIC Conference in Colorado to learn more about serving deafblind students. We will begin follow up work with the Deafblind Project to assure early intervention is supporting the dual needs of these babies.</p>
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10/2/19 we had spent 18.91% of our 2020 Budget. Last year at 10/16/18 our spending was at 25.58%. • We had a couple of unplanned expenditures in our Maintenance Department. Our air compressor in our boiler room quit working, so we had to purchase a new one at the price of \$3,535.71. We also had to replace the power supply to our air circulation system in the Bitterroot Building that had a replacement price of \$3,227.67. • We also purchased 96 new chairs and 10 new tables for our cottage and education program for \$3,699. As old plastic chairs and tables start to split and create pinching and safety concerns, we decided to throw those old, unusable ones out and replace them. This was a great deal through Sam’s Club, if you do the math and divide the

	<p>cost by 106 (tables & chairs) that breaks down to only \$34.99 each! And they are high quality products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also purchased two smart display panels for our classrooms. These cost \$9,459.
Maintenance and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See second bullet point above. • Architecture & Engineering has re-posted advertisements for bids for the replacement of the cottage roof project. Last spring there was only one official bid and the project was awarded to that vendor. The vendor had to withdraw his bid due to personal health reasons. We have asked to have the project actually started in the late spring or early summer in 2020 to make sure the asphalt shingles have time to heat seal in the warm summer months. On October 9th there will be a pre-bid walkthrough on MSDB's campus for vendors interested in placing a bid on the project. • Montana experienced a big snowstorm on September 29th and the city of Great Falls had many trees damaged by the volume and weight of the snow. Across our campus we have several large trees and our damage was minimal. Some branches fell, but not too many, and there was only one big one that fell in our playground area. It didn't cause any damage. We do see some loose smaller branches up high in some of our trees and we are on a waiting list with a couple of tree services to come pull those down. As you can imagine the tree services are very busy at this time.
Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSDB Foundation is purchasing a new Embosser for the VI department. The current one has broken down and needed to be replaced since it was 20 years old. The cost for the new embosser is \$4,495. • The Foundation is also purchasing 14 new computers for the school at a cost of \$10,000.
Calendar Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 7-13, 2019: COSB Leadership Institute / APH Annual Meeting in KY • October 16, 2019: Travel Home • October 20, 2019: Travel Return • October 21, 2019: MSDB Foundation Board meeting • October 25-26, 2019: Deaf Enrichment Weekend • October 30, 2019: End of First Quarter • November 7-8, 2019: Regular BPE Meeting • November 8-9, 2019: Visually Impaired Enrichment Weekend • November 17, 2019: Formal Dinner at 5pm • November 24, 2019: Formal Dinner at 5pm • November 26, 2019: Travel Home • December 1, 2019: Travel Return • December 15, 2019: Formal Dinner at 5pm • December 18, 2019: Dress Rehearsal for Winter Program at 9am • December 19, 2019: Winter Program at 1pm • December 20, 2019: Travel Home • January 2, 2019: Travel Return
Upcoming BPE Regular Meeting Agenda Items	<p>Action Item: Out of State Travel Requests</p> <p>Action Item: Human Resources</p> <p>MSDB Superintendent Evaluation</p>