

Board of Public Education – MSDB Report: January 17, 2020

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 border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>M</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>F</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PreSchool</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary (K-6)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle School (7-8)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High School (9-12)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5 (17)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>LEAP (Post-High School)</i> 2 1 (3)</p> <p><i>Deaf/Hard of Hearing Department</i></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>M</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>F</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PreSchool</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary (K-6)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle School (7-8)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High School (9-12)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14 (24)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>LEAP (Post-High School)</i> 0 0 (0)</p> <p><u>CAMPUS VISITS* 11 total</u> * Robert “Bob” Herbold (1956) and his family visited from Arizona this summer. * 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. * Matt Meinhardt (1992) and his partner Katie (former teacher at Iowa School for the Deaf) visited the week of Orientation. * Two Outreach VI students for intensive training in Assistive Technology, O&M, and braille * Students and Advisors from Job’s Daughters. * College Student observing for sociology class. * College Student observing ASL class for college assignment. * Two visits for 5th graders from Helena schools. * Students from Columbia who are taking ASL as distance class from our ASL Teacher. * ASL Class from GFHS. Visiting various classrooms, working with students, attending Winter Program. * Five (5) classes from Lewis and Clark Elementary attending Winter Program.</p>			<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	PreSchool	3	0	Elementary (K-6)	4	3	Middle School (7-8)	1	0	High School (9-12)	4	2	Total	12	5 (17)		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	PreSchool	2	3	Elementary (K-6)	2	3	Middle School (7-8)	1	2	High School (9-12)	5	6	Total	10	14 (24)
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	<p><u>CAMPUS</u></p> <p><u>10-day Observations</u> *Total Placement Requests: 10 (VI-3, DHH-6, DB-1) *Total Placement Recommended: 7 (VI-2, DHH-5, DB-0) *Observation in progress: 2 *Records being gathered: 0 *Referred to Outreach: 1 *Observation begins Jan: 2</p> <p><u>COTTAGE: 13 total students</u> DHH - 8 VI - 5 Boys - 4 Girls - 9</p> <p><u>OUTREACH</u> <u>Data as of 11/1/19</u> 832 Family Contacts D/HH 1134 School Contacts D/HH 306 Other Contacts D/HH</p> <p>563 Family Contacts B/VI 751 School Contacts B/VI 213 Other Contacts B/VI</p> <p><u>Data as of 11/1/2019</u> 11/125 Prof Dev In-services / Number in Attendance</p>																																					
Administration	<p><u>Partnership with the DeafBlind Project</u> MSDB works closely with the DeafBlind Project. This year, they brought Cody Colchado, Jr. to our campus and to the Transition Conference in Helena on November 18-19, 2019. Cody was born hard of hearing. In high school, he lost part of his vision in a football accident and later became totally blind. He is a competitive powerlifter and was named the 2015 World’s</p>																																					

	<p>Strongest Disabled Man – Standing Division and named 2016 America’s Strongest Adaptive Athlete. He is a 30-time champion powerlifter and holds 26 world records. The students LOVED his energy, his enthusiasm, and his inspiring message. He demonstrated several ways to break boards including with his head, with a “karate” chop breaking several at a time, and through the air sending the board flying into two pieces. His message centered on independence and working toward your goals.</p> <p><u>Sorenson Videophones</u> Montana is currently without any Sorenson representative. We submitted several requests for upgrading all of our videophones on campus. Scott Henry, former employee of MSDB and current Sorenson representative, traveled from Colorado Springs to complete this work for us during the last week in November. As a School for the Deaf, it is important to have current technology and ensure our students know how to use that technology. Sorenson videophones (along with any other videophone company) provide the equipment and the service at no charge to Deaf consumers. Our tax dollars support this service and all videophone companies must follow rules established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).</p> <p><u>Winter Program</u> Don’t miss our Winter Program! Check out our Facebook page @MtSDB for live streaming of the performances on December 19, 2019 at 1pm before our Zoom phone call meeting at 4pm.</p> <p><u>Policy Work</u> The 1000 series in the Policy Manual was reviewed and suggested edits are included in this Board report for the first reading.</p>
Union Items	<p><u>MFPE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Bargaining Agreement was ratified and signed. <p><u>UFCW</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Bargaining Agreement was ratified and signed.
Education Program	<p><u>Using MAP Data</u> Currently the staff is attending a variety of different professional development trainings on how to use MAP assessments to inform instruction. This includes how MAP can help define the scope of learning with the IXL program to meet the Common Core State Standards. These trainings will continue through the end of March.</p> <p><u>Writing Curriculum</u> We are looking for a trainer to come to MSDB and train staff how to provide better writing instruction. We will be looking at implementing the Step up to Writing program with the hopes that it will be implemented across disciplines.</p> <p><u>Growing the VI Department</u> The VI Department is looking at developing a K-2 classroom beginning in January. This would be the result of possibly 2 kindergarten VI students starting in January. We will possibly be adding one more VI student to our preschool classroom and another VI student to our middle school group. It is our hope that all 4 of these students will be MSDB students soon!</p> <p><u>Visitors</u> We have had several student visitors at MSDB the last two months. Four gifted and talented classrooms from Helena joined our classrooms for an enrichment experience. We have had public school students from Columbus High School and Great Falls High School join our classrooms as well as participants. Beginning in February, our students will assist staff at East Middle School with a sign language club.</p>

	<p><u>Club Activities</u> The Expression of Silence has been busy with their public performances. The Academic Bowl team is preparing for their regional competition in Hawaii. The Flying Hooves Club did a great job with Halloween Skits and working on their skits for the Christmas program. Our ASL Classes did a great job preparing a skit/presentation on Gallaudet and Clerc and their importance with deaf education.</p> <p><u>Evaluations for Deaf Students with Autism</u> We had a request for an evaluation for a student to evaluate for autism. As we have no experience with a deaf student with autism, we have relied heavily on the Montana Autism Project. They have sent staff to MSDB to help with observations. The new Montana Checklist for Autism is built for hearing students but OPI has walked us through what would be reasonable for the process. The student did qualify for Autism and we were able to help OPI develop a process for evaluating a deaf student.</p> <p><u>Staffing Changes</u> We have hired a PE teacher. She will begin 12-16-19. She has a background in exercise science (Bachelor of Science) and currently is a certified trainer. She has worked for Browning Public Schools and coaches girls' basketball for Simms. She will be on a Class 5 certificate while she completes her methods courses for Physical Education.</p>
<p>Student Life Program</p>	<p>This is an exciting time of the year in the cottages. The kids are involved with so many activities and the cottages are decorated for the holidays. There are several Expressions of Silence performances around town at several of the retirement communities.</p> <p>Our Thanksgiving Formal dinner was held on Sunday, November 24, the dinner was well attended. Students helped make the centerpieces for each table. Special guests for the dinner included many teachers and staff (with their families) and several MSDB Foundation members.</p> <p>Students traveled home on Tuesday, November 20. Travel return was changed from Sunday, to Monday December 2. The reason for changing travel was due to the adverse road conditions. All Student Life Parents were called and informed of this change – all were happy as they were given another day to spend with their child.</p> <p>We provided an on-campus apartment for a mother of two young children with visual impairments for about two weeks. This was not so much for placement in the cottages but rather for the family to check out the Education Program and perhaps move to Great Falls.</p> <p>Each cottage wing will have their own Christmas party and gift exchange. The students plan the party and each wing is a bit different. The MSDB Foundation helps provide funding for the food for these parties.</p> <p>December 7 the Annual MSDB Cookie Decorating Party was held in the dining room at 1:00 PM. This was open to all MSDB students, their families, staff and their families. This is our main MSDB Christmas party. It was a good turnout and everyone had a good time. Prizes were given for various categories.</p> <p>On Saturday, December 15 the members of the Jr. National Association of the Deaf (Jr. NAD) will host a Christmas party in conjunction with the Great Falls Club of the Deaf. This party will be held in the Mustang Center (Gym) lobby area. This is an opportunity for our students to socialize with members of the deaf community.</p> <p>December 15 will also be the Expressions of Silence Annual Holiday Fundraiser performance at 1:00 PM in the Mustang Center. This event is usually very well attended and gets folks in the holiday spirit.</p>

Finally, on Sunday, December 15 will be Christmas Formal Dinner at 5:00 PM in the Cottage Dining Room. It is anticipated this will be another nice opportunity for students, staff and invited guests to enjoy a nice meal and chat. The story, "What Shep did for Christmas" will be played on the CD player and Superintendent Donna Sorensen sign the story. This story is very relevant to MSDB and the MSDB Foundation.

Tuesday, December 17 the cottages will have our annual dinner out at the Golden Corral. The MSDB Foundation is very gracious and provides the funding for this activity.

Students will travel home on December 20 and will return January 2 (school in session).

- Outreach Program
- Outreach has been hard at work getting student data prepared for upcoming IEPs, planning and providing DEW at the end of October and VIEW in November.
 - We have had about 30 referrals in the start of the new school year. These referrals take time to collect information, do observation and prepare information to do in-services for school teams.
 - The Outreach Teams are already reaching out to possible presenters for the Family Learning Weekends that happen in June.
 - Some Outreach are encouraging their school teams serving Deafblind students to attend MCEC as a communication presentation for deafblind will be coming to Montana.
 - Outreach Consultants also continue to be busy getting around the state educating Low Vision teams on the Prodigy Connect 12 units.
 - To thank the Lions Clubs of Montana for their incredible work with the Foundation raising \$300,000 for low-vision magnification devices, a special Thank You ad was developed. You may have heard the spot on the radio or seen the spot on TV.

Business

Budget Spending Comparison:

Program	% Spent YTD as of 12/10/19	% Spent Prior Year as of 12/17/18
Administration	45.67%	41.54%
General Services	68.97%	54.02%
Cottage	40.46%	35.57%
Education	38.20%	41.84%
Total:	41.58%	41.18%

The General Services spending this fiscal year is higher this year than last year. This is mainly due to our insurance payment to Risk Management Tort Defense for \$67,861. We also pay our property taxes (\$11,144.11) all at one time instead of two payments.

This year we have also had some unexpected large payments in our General Services Program. Here is a list of those expenses which total \$13,090.37:

- Work on Condenser \$915.39
- Pumped out manhole to replace power supply \$921.25
- Replace power supply \$3,277.67
- Replace Compressor that failed due to power supply loss \$3,535.71
- Trim down branches due to severe wind storm \$1,440.00
- Replace controller switch \$745.00
- Change IP address on heating system \$615.00
- Purchase Rise Vision software to run Emergency alert system \$1,113.75
- Repair two parking lot lights \$576.60

I will keep a close eye on this program. The state is no longer going to support window 7 platform, so this has caused us to have to make some changes to our HVAC unit, since it is all computerized as well as some of our other computer programs that worked on Windows 7. At

	<p>this point, we have a quote for \$10,000 to move the system to a web-based system. However, a work-around costing \$800 has also been suggested. For now, we will go with the work-around knowing that we will have to move to a web-based system for a long-term solution.</p> <p>The Foundation purchased 14 computers to allow us to upgrade many of our computers on campus. We are asking the Foundation for 14 more computers. Many of our older machines simply do not have the memory and speed to run Windows 10 and require replacement.</p>
Maintenance and Facilities	<p>The cottage roof repair project through A&E has been put on hold at this time. There was no additional funding available for this project. We had \$171,000 in carry forward that went to A&E for this project. At this time, A& E is looking at doing some repairs to temporarily fix the really bad leaking areas. We were hoping the estimate would come in under \$25,000. The estimate came in at \$31,000. We do not have the extra \$6000 so this repair work will be put out for bid. For a long-term solution, we will request funding to fix the Cottage roofs in the Long Range Building process in the next biennium.</p>
Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Foundation meeting is January 13, 2020. • Grants have been submitted or in process to fund upgraded SmartBoard technology and Science Lab microscopes.
Calendar Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 17, 2019: Travel Home • January 20, 2019: Travel Return – No School • February 3-6, 2020: CEC in Portland, OR • February 11, 2020: MFPE – Admin LMC Meeting • February 11, 2020: VI Outreach Meeting • February 14, 2020: Travel Home • February 17, 2020: Travel Return – No School • February 19, 2020: MTAP 30th Anniversary Celebration in Helena • February 20, 2020: BPE-MSDB Committee Phone call at 4pm • February 25-26, 2020: CEASD Education and Advocacy Summit in Washington DC • March 11-13, 2020: Flying Hands trip to Washington School for the Deaf • March 12, 2020: Travel Home • March 12-13, 2020: BPE Regular Meeting in Helena • March 15, 2020: Travel Return • March 24, 2020: End of 3rd Quarter • March 27-28, 2020: Visually Impaired Enrichment Weekend (VIEW) • March 29, 2020: Formal Dinner at 5pm • April 3, 2020: Travel Home – Spring Vacation • April 13, 2020: Travel Return – No School • April 16, 2020: BPE-MSDB Committee Phone call at 4pm • April 17-18, 2020: Deaf Enrichment Weekend (DEW) • April 21, 2020: Arbor Day / Spring Program • April 24, 2020: Expressions of Silence Spring Fundraiser • May 1-2, 2020: VI Games • May 7-8, 2020: BPE Regular Meeting at MSDB • May 8, 2020: Travel Home • May 11, 2020: Travel Return – School in Session • May 15, 2020: MSDB Prom • May 25, 2020: No School – Cottages open • May 29, 2020: MSDB Graduation at 2pm • June 4, 2020: Last day of school • June 5-6, 2020: Family Learning Weekend – Blind and Visually Impaired • June 12-13, 2020: Family Learning Weekend – Deaf and Hard of Hearing • June 18, 2020: BPE-MSDB Committee Phone call at 4pm • June 21-27, 2020: Deaf Camp

<p><u>Action Item:</u> Supt. Leave</p>	<p><u>Vacation</u> Thursday, November 14, 2019 and Friday, November 15, 2019. (16 hours) Tuesday, January 7, 2020 to Friday, January 11, 2020. (24 hours)</p>
<p><u>Action Item:</u> Statutory Salary Increases</p>	<p><u>Per HB 175 Implementation Guidelines</u> <i>“Governor Steve Bullock signed into law HB 175 on March 20, 2019, which states, ‘Effective on the first day of the first complete pay period that includes January 1, 2020, the base salary of each employee must be increased by 50 cents.’ These guidelines apply to all eligible employees defined in 2-18-101 (11) (a) and (b), MCA, who will receive an automatic pay adjustment.”</i></p> <p>Guideline #6 states: <i>“Salary adjustments for employees in the Exempt Pay Plan (061), including elected and appointed officials defined in 2-18-103, MCA, and 2-18-104, MCA, must be authorized in writing by the approving authority.”</i></p> <p>We have several employees that fall under this Exempt Pay Plan (061) and we need the approving authority, in this case the Board of Public Education, ARM 10.51.104, to approve in writing those increases.</p>
<p><u>Action Item:</u> Policies</p>	<p><u>First Reading</u> Policy Manual Introduction 1000 Legal Status and Operation 1100 Organization 1310 Adoption and Amendment of Policies 1401 Records Available to Public 1420 School Board Meeting Procedure 1441 Audience Participation 1521 Board-Superintendent Relationship 1610 Annual Goals and Objectives 1640 Board Participation in Activities</p>
<p><u>Action Item:</u> Out-of-State Travel Requests</p>	<p><i>These requests are incredibly important for us to remain current in our fields, to interact with our like-colleagues across the country, and to reward and celebrate student accomplishments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Tangen and Michelle Cross, VI Outreach, traveling for the CSUN Assistive Technology conference in Anaheim, CA from March 8-14, 2020. Approximate costs of \$4200 will be paid for by Texas Tech University. • Erin Barr and Miché Jarvey, VI Teachers, and up to five (5) students traveling for NASA ROADS competition to Seattle, WA on April 23-26, 2020. Airfare and accommodations for 5 students and 1 adult will be paid for by the University of Washington. Other expenses of approximately \$1500 paid for by the Foundation. <i>Winners of this competition will be invited to Cape Canaveral, FL for an actual rocket launch in September 2020. Some of those expenses will be covered by NASA.</i> • Barbara Peterson traveling for Orientation to Texas Tech University’s Project INVITE grant in Lubbock, TX on April 24-27, 2020. All expenses paid for by Texas Tech University. See letter attached with Out of State Travel form. • Four (4) students and two (2) coaches traveling for the Gallaudet University Academic Bowl National Competition in Washington DC in April 2020. Participation in Nationals is dependent upon qualifying at the Regional Competition. Approximate costs of \$6500 paid for by Gallaudet University and the Foundation.
<p><u>Action Item:</u> Human Resources</p>	<p><u>Hired</u> Jacqueline Whaley – PE Teacher Shane Lawrence – ASL Interpreter</p>