

Board of Public Education – MSDB Report: March 7-8, 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%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center"><i>M</i></td> <td align="center"><i>F</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PreSchool</td> <td align="center">2</td> <td align="center">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary (K-6)</td> <td align="center">5</td> <td align="center">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle School (7-8)</td> <td align="center">0</td> <td align="center">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High School (9-12)</td> <td align="center">4</td> <td align="center">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right">Total</td> <td align="center">11</td> <td align="center">6 (17)</td> </tr> </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%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center"><i>M</i></td> <td align="center"><i>F</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PreSchool</td> <td align="center">2</td> <td align="center">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary (K-6)</td> <td align="center">2</td> <td align="center">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle School (7-8)</td> <td align="center">1</td> <td align="center">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High School (9-12)</td> <td align="center">5</td> <td align="center">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right">Total</td> <td align="center">10</td> <td align="center">15 (25)</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>LEAP (Post-High School)</i> 0 0 (0)</p> <p><u>CAMPUS VISITS* 11 total</u></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>* Students and Advisors from Job’s Daughters.</p> <p>* College Student observing for sociology class.</p> <p>* College Student observing ASL class for college assignment.</p> <p>* Two visits for 5th graders from Helena schools.</p> <p>* Students from Columbia who are taking ASL as distance class from our ASL Teacher.</p> <p>* ASL Class from GFHS. Visiting various classrooms, working with students, attending Winter Program.</p> <p>* Five (5) classes from Lewis and Clark Elementary attending Winter Program.</p>			<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	PreSchool	2	0	Elementary (K-6)	5	3	Middle School (7-8)	0	1	High School (9-12)	4	2	Total	11	6 (17)		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	PreSchool	2	3	Elementary (K-6)	2	4	Middle School (7-8)	1	2	High School (9-12)	5	6	Total	10	15 (25)
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	<p><u>CAMPUS</u></p> <p><u>10-day Observations</u></p> <p>*Total Placement Requests: 10 (VI-3, DHH-6, DB-1)</p> <p>*Total Placement Recommended: 8 (VI-3, DHH-5, DB-0)</p> <p>*Observation in progress: 0</p> <p>*Records being gathered: 1</p> <p>*Referred to Outreach: 0</p> <p>*Observation begins Feb: 1</p> <p><u>COTTAGE: 14 total students</u></p> <p>DHH 9 VI 5 Boys 4 Girls 10</p> <p><u>OUTREACH</u></p> <p><u>Data as of February 1, 2020</u></p> <p>1146 *Family Contacts D/HH 1724 *School Contacts D/HH 428 *Other Contacts D/HH</p> <p>1139 *Family Contacts B/VI 1603 *School Contacts B/VI 573 *Other Contacts B/VI</p> <p><u>Data as of December 1, 2019</u></p> <p>12/167 *Prof Dev In-services / *Number in Attendance</p>																																					
Administration	<p><u>New Website</u></p> <p>Our new website is up and running! We have gotten several compliments on the ease of use and the look and layout. We continue to work out some of the kinks, such as updating the calendar and ensuring all the links are working properly. Once we are satisfied with the updates to current information, we will proceed with a website audit to ensure our</p>																																					

	<p>website is meeting minimum accessibility requirements.</p> <p><u>Upcoming Legislative Session</u> We have started our internal conversations about future needs for our programs and our facilities. We have an ongoing wish list that we add to every year and prioritize for legislative session years. We will be submitting our requests when asked through the Long Range Building Needs and through our budgeting system through the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP).</p>
Superintendent Leave Report	None
Union Items	<p><u>MFPE</u> Members would like to know how they can be involved in the search for the next Superintendent of MSDB. Administration reiterated the message to contact Pete Donovan if they had questions (from the letter from Darlene Schottle to the staff).</p> <p><u>UFCW</u> No news to report.</p>
Education Program	<p>We have continued to provide professional development with making NWEA MAP data useful when planning instruction. We have covered how to retrieve results from MAP and in return apply student RIT scores to both IXL and Reading A-Z programs. Our last session will cover how you can use the Khan Academy to tailor MAP progression.</p> <p>We are working with BLVS on how we can strengthen our partnership with them to better serve our post high school students.</p> <p>We have been working with the PRE-ETS grant to pay our students for their work experiences. With the grant changing the way we pay students, we have enlisted a temporary agency to handle the payroll of our students. This was at the advice of the PRE-ETS group.</p> <p>We trained all staff members who were not previously certified with CPI Training. CPI stands for Crisis Response Intervention and we use this program to help understand student behaviors. Staff are trained to identify a student’s behavior risk and how to work with the student with appropriate response techniques. We currently have all our staff trained with this program.</p> <p>We met as a technology committee to identify the direction of the school with regards to technology. It is evident that we need to deliberately plan for technology in the budget. We are also pulling a list of all software programs utilized at MSDB to meet the requirements of HB 745. We will be using the process designed by The Montana Student Privacy Alliance to meet the requirements of the bill.</p> <p>We have been working on a school calendar for the 2020-21 School Year. We will ask the board to approve the calendar during their March meeting. By that time, the labor management committee and entire staff will have time to review the different calendars and vote for the most desired calendar.</p> <p>Student Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our JR NAD group hosted a Stars and Moon Festival in January for all 7th -12th grade students. • We had a school wide celebration to honor the Little Shell Tribes Federal recognition. We educated the students on how this process took place. • Our Academic Bowl Team will be competing in the regional qualifier the 17th-25th. This will take place in Hawaii.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Flying Hooves Team has decided not to compete in Washington this year. Instead, they will be looking for opportunities to perform around Montana and Great Falls. <p>At the recent Montana Council of Exceptional Children (MCEC), the Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education (MCASE) presented Jennifer Wasson with a Distinguished Service Award as Special Educator 2020! Ms. Wasson was in Hawaii at the Gallaudet University Regional Academic Bowl competition so Paul Furthmyre accepted the award on her behalf. Congratulations, Jen!!</p>
Student Life Program	<p>Students will travel home for President’s day weekend. We are hopeful for good travel weather for our charter service!</p> <p>We have students involved in various activities after school including Expressions of Silence, Jogging Jokers, Flying Hooves, Heisey Youth basketball and Class meetings. We have hosted several basketball games and tournaments in our Mustang Center Gym. The senior class handles the concession stand to help earn funds for their senior trip.</p> <p>On February 2nd the students in the cottages will have their annual Super Bowl party. This year the food will be various finger foods made by each of the cottage wings as well as our kitchen. The students always seem to have a good time and get plenty food to munch on. Cheri Luongo, Counselor for the Blind and Low Vision girls spearheaded the event. The MSDB Foundation provided the funding for the extra snacks and drinks!</p> <p>The Counselors are having some workshops on Saturday afternoon. The focus has been on the issue of job interviewing. These one-hour sessions have been well received by the students.</p> <p>Please note that the Spring/Easter formal dinner has been changed to Sunday, March 22nd at 5:00 PM. The reason for this change is our kitchen staff will be involved with the meals for the Visually Impaired Enrichment Weekend (March 27 and 28) and there is just not enough time to put together the meal for Sunday, March 29th!</p>
Outreach Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VI Outreach is developing a Resource Guide for parents of infants who are blind or visually impaired. • DHH Outreach is working with Cochlear Implant Companies to have the representatives come to Montana for Family Learning Weekend. • Preparing for next set of Sign Language Classes through our Deaf Mentor Grant. • VI Outreach is preparing materials to share with the Ophthalmologist in February. • Supporting Deafblind teams who would benefit from the MCEC Conference this year. Hoping to get session streamed for families who are not able to travel to Missoula. • Working on Deafblind Census information and American Printing House Census data. • Working on updating service guidelines and continue to work on building strong relations with other service agencies and OPI as new staff come into positions so our services can remain strong for Montana kids.
Business	<p>Some unexpected expenses that came up in regards to changing our operating systems to windows 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,113.75 to Rise Vision, this is a platform we use for our mass communication emergency system. We were using a free platform, but with the upgrade statewide to windows 10, we had to pay for this platform now. • \$395 to Tiger Software, this is software used for our commercial Braille. Again this was needed to run the Braille using windows 10. <p>Other unexpected costs since January are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$566.25 to replace carrier inducer motor on our furnace.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$655 to trouble shoot office controllers, since no heat. It was discovered that a critter had chewed through wires in crawl space below the main office. <p>My early projections for fiscal year end in regards to personal service expenditures look good. I am not anticipating any shortages at this time.</p> <p>We know of only one retiree and she will not have a big payout. There will be a fairly large payout for Donna Sorensen when she is done working at MSDB, but that shouldn't affect fiscal year end, due to not paying her salary for four months.</p>
Maintenance and Facilities	CS Roofing was here and did some repairs to the cottage roof. We are hoping that these repairs will stop the internal water damage to the worst area of the cottage until the entire roof can be replaced. Hopefully, that will be approved in the 2022/20203 Biennium.
Foundation	<p><u>New Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Copeland – ASL Teacher at William Woods University, outgoing President of the Montana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MRID) • Bonnie DeNoma – Worked in MSDB's Main Office for 20+ years, Retired to Executive Assistant for the Foundation, and finally Retired to Foundation Board Member • DeeDee Franzen – Parent of former student with visual impairment <p><u>Rainbow Garden Club</u></p> <p>Two ladies from the Rainbow Garden Club spoke about the long partnership they have had with our students. They work with our students in gardening activities. Last year, they planted a Monarch Butterfly Waystations planter. We have enjoyed their work with us.</p> <p><u>Grants and Financial Requests</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received a \$12,000 grant to upgrade some of our SmartBoards. • The Foundation will fund an additional \$15,000 to replace the remaining 14 computers on our campus that are unable to run Windows 10. • We had a request from ASL CAN Film Camp to sponsor their second annual Film Camp which we will sponsor at \$5000. • Ray Sevrie requested funding for the Montana ASL Festival happening here in Great Falls at the Expo Park on September 26. Vote to happen in April.
Calendar Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 12, 2020: Travel Home • March 12-13, 2020: BPE Regular Meeting in Helena • March 15, 2020: Travel Return • March 22, 2020: Formal Dinner at 5pm • March 24, 2020: End of 3rd Quarter • March 27-28, 2020: Visually Impaired Enrichment Weekend (VIEW) • 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Reading: School Calendar • Second Reading: 1000 Series of Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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><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. All trips must also have MSDB Administration team approval based on school goals and needs as well as State/Foundation budgets.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two to three Staff Chaperones and up to 10 students traveling for the Deaf Teen Leadership camp in Randle, WA from June 23, 2020 to July 3, 2020. Approximate costs of \$6000 will be paid for by the Pre-ETS grant. • Up to ten staff members traveling for National Deaf Education Conference to Chicago, IL on June 29, 2020 to July 4, 2020. Approximate costs of \$15,000 paid for by the Foundation. • Superintendent traveling for Western Deaf Superintendent’s Meeting (in person) in Salem, OR on July 18-19, 2020. Approximate costs of \$600 paid for by the State. • Up to ten staff members traveling for International Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) conference in St. Louis, MO from July 21-27, 2020. Approximate costs of \$13,770 paid for by the Foundation. • Up to ten staff members traveling for ASL Immersion (Annual Silent Weekend) in Monmouth, OR from July 31, 2020 to August 2, 2020. Approximate costs of \$7000 paid for by the Foundation. • Lace Lesofski traveling for National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in Denver, CO on November 2020. Approximate costs of \$1800 paid for by the Foundation. This year, Ms. Lesofski will be co-presenting with a teacher from Oklahoma about their classroom partnership. <p><i>Funding will not allow for full participation (up to 10 staff members, for example) for every opportunity. As staff inform supervisors of their desires to attend, the Administration team will determine approval based on school goals, employee goals and duties, and State/Foundation budgets.</i></p>
<p><u>Action Item:</u> Human Resources</p>	<p><u>Retiring:</u> None</p> <p><u>Hired:</u> None</p> <p><u>Leaving MSDB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna Sorensen, Superintendent: Last day was February 28, 2020. Resignation accepted at January Board Meeting. • Sydney Smail, Paraeducator: Family is relocating. Last day was March 4, 2020.