SAM Advocacy and Professional Learning Opportunities...

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

A word of thanks to each of you for the outstanding work you are doing for your students, school and community as the pandemic continues to impact our lives. Stellar leadership of our school administrators all across Montana is making a positive difference in the quality of life in your community.

The importance of advocacy and professional learning are at a premium as we begin the second month of this school year right before an election and the 2021 Legislative Session. I share this information with you with the hope you will engage in the following opportunities to insure your success for the students you serve in your school.

The results of the great work of 44 delegates, assembled virtually for SAM Delegate Assembly 2020 (SAM DA 20) on July 30, are compiled, organized and prepared for review of the SAM membership. First, I want to thank the Delegates who participated in the very engaging and important discussions that happened at SAM DA 20. Your work in advocacy is so important to help create priorities for the 2021 legislative session and federal issues. Complete information about the SAM DA 20 can be found on the SAM Delegate Assembly webpage. SAM DA 2020 Business Meeting Recommendations 10-14-20 is the document outlining SAM Advocacy Priorities by Action Designation, Summary of SAM DA Actions, DRAFT DA Minutes, Positions, and Resolutions adopted by the SAM DA 20. The recommendations created will be considered by the entire SAM membership at the annual SAM Virtual Business Meeting on October 14, 2020, 1:00-3:00 pm via Zoom. See the official notice of the SAM Virtual Business Meeting 2020 in this Bulletin. We hope you will attend this meeting and take action on SAM's advocacy priorities, positions and resolutions!

In the middle of October, expect to see a request from your affiliate president and region leadership, for SAM members to join the SAM Legislative Network 2021 (SAMLN21). The SAMLN is formed in order to effectively communicate SAM legislative issues/bills and collect input to allow appropriate representation of SAM issues/bills during the legislative session. Check out this Description of the SAMLN21 and think about joining the Network when the call to engage comes from your affiliate president and region leadership.

At MCEL 2020 (October 15-16) held virtually, you can expect to receive the release of GREAT VIII 2020 (The Great Work of Montana’s Public Schools, Volume VIII, 2020)! The partners of MT-PEC (Montana Public Education Center) administer the annual opinion poll of Montana voter’s perspectives on K-12 education issues, and the K-12 Vision Group (with SAM members represented) met on September 16, leading to a refocused strategic plan describing the significant progress made as a result of our collective efforts to meet the Constitutional guarantee to develop the full education potential of each person. GREAT VIII will be a very important resource for you and your community when considering the support for the education of the children in your community. I encourage all SAM members to register for MCEL 2020 to engage in this outstanding professional learning.
Thank you to this month’s featured Business Partners!

The partners of MT-PEC (Montana Public Education Center) have collaborated in developing resources you can depend on COVID impact on our schools. Check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Fall 2020 Guidance for K-12 Public Schools Re-Opening, Updated 9.17.20. Please also look at the SAM COVID-19 Information for Schools webpage being updated regularly with Pandemic related items through the perspective of “necessary” for an administrator to know.

For best opportunity to enhance professional learning that will impact you, your school and district, the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) 2020-21, is ready to meet your needs. Sixty-six administrators are engaged in professional learning and participating in 10 Collegial Learning Networks on key educational topics in our state. You can still join this personalized professional learning, just click HERE to register to join your colleagues in making a difference through professional learning.

Opportunities in Advocacy and Professional Learning will surely sharpen your saw and engage you for success this school year. We know we are stronger in our support for the education of each child when we work together having administrator input on all areas impacting education, advocate together, and learn together. Please engage in these SAM opportunities this October.

All the Best,

Kirk J. Miller

** View the full SAM Calendar**

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All SAM Members are Invited to Attend the SAM Annual Business Meeting!

The SAM Annual Business Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM**. All SAM members are encouraged to attend this virtual event!

Agenda items include:

- **Voting on the SAM Delegate Assembly 2020 Advocacy Recommendations** - The results of the great work of the SAM Delegate Assembly 2020 in July will be voted on by the SAM membership during the business meeting. We hope you will attend and participate in the vote.

- **Honoring Award Winners** - Please attend the meeting to support these award recipients. The following award winners will be recognized during the meeting:
  - Dr. Jay Erdie Memorial Mentor Scholarship - TBA
  - MCASE Special Education Director of the Year - Michelle Halberg
  - MACSS County Superintendent of the Year - Linda Marsh
  - MASS Regional Superintendents of the Year - Andy Begger, Nate Olson, Laurie Barron, Jeremy MacDonald, Jason Sargent, Kathleen Prody, Theresa Keel, Allison Evertz, Larry Crowder
  - MASS Superintendent of the Year - TBA
  - MASS Principal of the Year - Shawn Hendrickson
  - META Technologist of the Year - Brad Somers
  - META Empowered Superintendent of the Year - Nathan Schmitz

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October is National Principals Month

Through visionary leadership and tireless pursuit of success for each student, principals guide and support their schools in ways large and small every day. And as we faced new challenges presented by COVID-19, our principals came through when it mattered most. **National Principals Month** is our way of honoring their dedication and thanking them for all they've done.

Once again throughout the entire month of October, NAESP, NASSP, AFSA—as well as district leaders, policymakers, parents, students, teachers, and school leaders—come together to not only celebrate these heroes of education but also to advocate for school leaders everywhere. Together, we can inform local, state, and federal governments about the harsh reality of what principals are experiencing and garner support for legislation that benefits these school leaders and the students they serve.

Through nationwide efforts at local, state, and federal levels; evidence-based research initiatives; and appreciation events of every size, **National Principals Month** seeks to honor our principals for their significant impact on the success and well-being of our nation’s students.

And this is no small-scale occurrence: our event has made its way to the Senate and House of Representatives to officially recognize October as National Principals Month.
MASS Honor School Board of the Year - TBA
MASS Honor School Board of the Year - TBA
MAEMSP National Distinguished Principal - Travis Niemeyer
G.V. Erickson Award - TBA

Visit the SAM Business Meetings webpage for connection information. You will be required to log in to the website. Contact the SAM office if you need assistance.

MCELE 2020: October 15-16, 2020 is Virtual

Registration is open for MCELE 2020! Visit the following links for more information:

- Registration
- Schedule at a Glance
- 2020 MCELE Sessions

Visit the SAM Website

CoSN - Cybersecurity

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN in partnership with School Administrators of Montana and CoSN’s Montana state affiliate chapter, Montana Educational Technologists Association (META) are pleased to continue to support superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations.

The month of October is designated as National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. In keeping with the focus on cybersecurity, CoSN is pleased to offer multiple pathways for school leaders to learn how to identify, manage and prevent cybersecurity attacks within school and school district settings.

EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar:
“Cybersecurity: Keeping Everyone Safe in Today’s Learning Environments”

The second episode of Season 3 of the EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar series airs on Monday, October 12, 2020 in conjunction with National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The title of the October 12, 2020 webinar, which airs at 3:00 pm MT, is Cybersecurity: Keeping Everyone Safe in Today’s Learning Environments. In this edWebinar, Dr. Luvelle Brown, Superintendent, Ithaca City School District, NY, Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent, Highline Public Schools, WA, Dr. Chris Gaines, Superintendent, Mehlville School District, MO; and Amy McLaughlin, Project Director, CoSN Cybersecurity Initiative share their perspectives and experiences in dealing with the complexities of managing and assuring cybersecurity in today’s K-12 learning environments. They will examine the liability concerns that arise when schools experience network security incidents and the impact those events can have on a district’s professional reputation as well as the effects cyber-attacks have on teaching and learning. Strategies for effectively preventing, managing and communicating cybersecurity threats will be reviewed. Free registration for the October 12, 2020 webinar is now available HERE.

The complete list of free recordings of all previously broadcast EmpowerED Superintendent webinars is available HERE. In addition to the free access to live and recorded webinars, the EmpowerED Superintendent recorded webinars are now accessible via podcast. Learn more HERE.

Critical Focus Areas: Issue One-Pager on Cybersecurity
The CoSN EmpowerED Superintendents

SAM Virtual Administrators Institute 2020 Deadline Approaching

Were you unable to attend the virtual conference but want access to the resources? Register now to receive all conference materials, including video recordings of each session: three keynote presentations and 12 focus zone sessions. Follow this link: SAM Virtual Administrators Institute 2020 Registration. You have until October 31st to access all of the conference materials and earn up to 15 OPI Renewal Unit Credits?
Be sure to visit the Calendar on the SAM website to see everything happening at SAM. You can view all events or just by affiliate. All LPLP events are also posted on the calendar. Connection information for each event can also be found on the calendar.

Did You Know... you can connect with other SAM members through affiliate region meetings?

Five of the six SAM affiliates are divided into regions and many regions hold meetings throughout the year. Region President/Director contact information, meeting times, and meeting agendas can be found for each affiliate on their region web page. Click on the following links for information about your affiliate region (login is required):

- MASS Regional Information
- MASSP Regional Information
- MAEMSP Regional Information
- META Regional Information
- MCASE Regional Information

The web page presents a series of “one-pagers” to guide and empower superintendents and their leadership teams in leading digital transformations. CoSN’s one-page document on The Importance of Cybersecurity defines the top five reasons why school system leaders must make cybersecurity a priority. It is available to view and download HERE.

CoSN Cybersecurity Initiative
For additional information and guidance, including access to a report on K-12 security risk methodology, notification about CoSN’s partnership with the Cybersecurity Collaborative and other resources, visit https://www.cosn.org/cybersecurity

If your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please contact Brian Calvary, CAE, CoSN Director of Membership and Chapters, at bcalvary@cosn.org.

Thank you to SAM’s Business Partners!

Please take time to visit their websites.

Montana Big Sky Sponsors

Montana Glacier Sponsors