



## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA

*Visionary leaders united in providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students!*

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To all our registered attendees and members, due to the intensifying developments that have occurred over the past week regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and with respect to each administrator's need to monitor the situation locally, the SAM Executive Board of Directors met virtually and took action to cancel the 2020 MASS/METAtechED Spring Conference on March 23-24. We want to thank you for your patience as we observed the ever-evolving situation and tried to make the best decision in the interest of your health and safety. Ultimately, continuing with the conference became difficult logistically as several states enacted restrictions legally prohibiting nonessential travel and speakers/presenters canceled their attendance. Also, SAM's Executive Board determined that moving forward with the conference ran the risk of exposing attendees to the communicable disease, which would only be exacerbated if an attendee returned to his/her school community and passed it on to staff and students. Ultimately, the decision was made that the only responsible move was to eliminate potential risk to attendees.

We know that you've been looking forward to the training and networking opportunities the conference provides. The MASS/META leadership and SAM staff have been working diligently for months to provide an outstanding conference, so we are disappointed that this year's conference will not go forward.

The SAM office will be issuing refunds for your full registration fee. We ask for your continued patience while we work to credit your fee back to your original form of payment. Our SAM office has worked with the Delta Hotel by Marriott and if you had room reservations there, you do not need to do anything to cancel your hotel reservation. Gary Wagner will handle canceling all hotel reservations. If you have any questions about your hotel reservation, contact Gary ([samgw@sammt.org](mailto:samgw@sammt.org)) or by calling 406-442-2510.

We will continue to monitor the situation for SAM events beyond March. The safety of every student, educator, and administrator across the country continues to be our top priority. SAM will make decisions based on the best information available.

*Kirk J. Miller*