

Minutes of the Mid-Winter Conference Business Meeting
Tuesday February 14, 2017
Great Northern Hotel, Helena

Call to order: Jessica McWilliams called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Attending members introduced themselves and signed in, constituting the Roll Call. Present included: Big Horn, Blaine, Silver Bow, Carbon, Cascade, Daniels, Dawson, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Madison, McCone, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Phillips, Powell, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland, Wibaux, and Yellowstone (28) in all.

Sherry Long nominated Susan Metcalf for parliamentarian, second by Pam Birkeland.

Approve agenda: Jack Eggensperger moved, Gail Staffanson seconded, approved unanimously.

Approve Fall 2016 minutes: Jessica read them aloud. Motion to accept amended minutes made by Susan Metcalf, seconded by Joby Parker. Passed unanimously. Approved with corrections—MACO will vote as to if we will have a vote at MACO; Added Kathy Pfister to the Teacher of the Year Committee, corrected Jack E's spelling. Jules Waber pointed out that people were not wearing name tags, and that the minutes on the SAM website are not hot linked.

Treasurer's Report: Rhonda Long - 2016 final year budget. Income and expenditures are in line. Red Lodge is reserved out of last year's budget. We are staying at the Rock Creek Resort. 13 counties have not paid their dues.

Appoint Audit Committee: Susan Beley, Katrina Chaney, and Joby will serve on the Audit Committee.

Committee Reports:

- a. MACO: Susan Beley—Wants us to take books home, price negotiable. County Commissioner Daly deserves a thank you and pat on the back for presenting to MACO board that MACSS gets a vote, bylaw change has been approved, as long as association has 29 paid members. Last night was our first vote. MACO discussed an issue in Madison County where a commissioner was not living in his reported residence. MACO decided to stay out of it and that it was a taxpayer and election official issue. Reports on the trust. Beaverhead County Commissioner said that Linda was in Hawaii and so could we please discuss SRSS and PILT Payment in Lieu of taxes. There was some discussion that if you get one you would not get the other.
- b. Teacher of the Year-Susan Metcalf—Jill Wilson is our Teacher of the Year. Erin Lipkind told us a bit about Jill.

- c. Sunshine—Susan Beley read a letter from Judy Martin, resigning her position. Pam volunteered to take over for Judy.
- d. Delegate Assembly Steering Committee—Jessica said it has been quiet on the legislative front. Had a meeting at SAM to make sure the legislative network was fully formed, but we have only had one call to action. Carolyn Hall mentioned 2 bills by Senator Lenz requiring PD for teachers about mental health and suicide prevention, with no funds attached to it. Required was suicide prevention, and strategic plan was recommended. Gail suggested OPI put training on the learning hub. Discussion about necessity of a strategic plan at elementary school. Jules said he would send an email to MACSS about a training he knows about. Susan Beley said some of the bill was language clean up but the only change of the requirements of the training is requiring 4 hours instead of 2. Training must be done every 5 years. Kelly Miles attended ASSIST training, considered suicide/first aid, so you can learn to identify problems like cutting. 2 day training, can be done in a one day. Cathy Maloney passed out magnets and pens that have her local mental health center number on them. Teens have reported that the text line is helpful. She will help set up training if we want and will send out a list of resources to us all. Dan Rask stated that on his website there are a number of resources including an emergency template we should all consider developing.
- e. MSSA—Steve Engebretson will be taking over. MSSA and MREA are working closely together, and there is one scholarship request which will likely be awarded tomorrow to West Glacier. Montana Rural Ed Partnership will become a united group who is a part of NREA. Our vote will become louder at the national level.
- f. NREA/NREAC—NREA—Dr. Alan Pratt, new executive director, is here today. Alison, former Rural Teacher of the Year, is president of NREA.
- g. SAM—Transition with Steve taking over as president. He attended the last meeting via UBER conference. He is learning the ropes. Our transition of officers is off kilter with the rest of SAM, so he and Jessica have been tag teaming it. SAM started a finance committee. Jessica will continue to be the steering committee rep, but Steve will take over the delegate assembly rep.
- h. Legislature—HB 113 allowing Indian immersion funds to be used has passed the legislature and signed by gov. HB178 ANB funding for 18 year olds tabled. HB 191 inflationary increase to educational spending is on the way to the gov, amended. HB 192 Raising dropout age to 18 tabled. HB 323 authorizes use of medication if students overdose in school to reduce the chance of overdose. His county nurses were concerned about that because in our small communities ambulances would arrive very quickly. SB139 revising K-12 schools expansion came out of committee 8-0. Will be heard on the S floor. SB 143 Allows retirees to go back to work for 4 years in schools that can't find teachers. Tabled. SB226 hearing tomorrow paying transportation for summer school. Failed last session. SB227 hearing tomorrow transportation reimbursement bill change from days of transportation to hours of instruction. HB 32 SPED funding bill brought

back from the table on an 8 to 0 vote. HB 376 Charter School Bill being heard tomorrow in the House room 303 at 3pm. According to Dan Rask, Tester is reintroducing Bills related to teacher recruitment and retention and student loan forgiveness.

- i. Historian—Cathy Sessions—working through 2 big suitcases that have been lugged around, scanning pictures, putting them on a USB, and has some finished and put on a digital picture frame for us to enjoy. Asking for historical data for retirements.
- j. By-Laws—No meetings
- k. Strategic Plan—updated and on the SAM website.
- l. Other—Jessica—tomorrow at 10:30 on the agenda it states we will break up in MASS regions, but due to a number of new members in the same region it just doesn't work. We will play it by ear. Regina Plettenberg from Ravalli County may be here tomorrow. We may form a new committee to deal with the issue of combined offices. Much discussion occurred on this issue but we will discuss it further tomorrow. Regina spoke with Susan Beley at the MACO training about her county's concern over possible hearings. Susan explained that we were working it out. Then in January we heard that the Bill was written (LC 1878). The bill is much broader than she may intend. The E-board has a plan which may better address the issue. Susan also reported on a MACO training where each office was presenting on their positions and seemed to instead be attempting to defend their jobs and state how great they were.

Business meeting recessed at 10:46 am

Business Meeting Resumed at 10:30 am on 2/16/17

The only additional counties for the 2nd part were Big Horn, McCone and Ravalli with Missoula being absent.

Unfinished Business

- a. Strategic Plan— added for future agendas to keep in our minds, nothing new at this time.
- b. Fall Conference 2017—Red Lodge September 25, 26, 27. At the Rock Creek Resort. 1-800-667-1119

New Business

- a. Combined Office Concerns— Regional county supt. meetings are encouraged – out of this we will form a Standing Hearings Committee (Jack Eggenesperger - West, Garry Pace – Central, Kathy Pfister – East, Jessica McWilliams and Rhonda Long of the E-board and Pam Birkeland as an Alternate) for support for combined offices, sharing resources and connections are an important part of our organization, mentoring newbies is a need. Adding a Handbook Committee (Susan Metcalf, Jessica McWilliams, Rhonda Long, Pam Birkeland, Joby Parker, Kathy Pfister, Cathy Maloney and Laura Axtman) to update our handbooks is a need – add the closing of a school section
- b. Spring 2018 Conference— Libby, Jessica McWilliams 1st, Susan Metcalf 2nd passed unanimously

c. Fall 2018 Conference—Glendive Jane Swanson-Webb 1st, Susan Metcalf 2nd, passed unanimously

Adjourn— Jessica McWilliams 1st, Carolyn Hall 2nd, passed unanimously,

Erin Lipkind, Secretary