

# MACSS Board and Business Meeting

## Executive Director Update

September 26, 2017



Hi MACSS [Executive Board](#) and Members! Below is a brief update of SAM and MACSS activities for your review as the 2017-18 school year gets underway. The [MACSS tab](#) on the SAM website ([www.sammt.org](http://www.sammt.org)) has updated information for the reference of all MACSS members. Please contact me if you have questions.

### 1. Review of Strategic Plan

- The [MACSS Strategic Plan](#) was approved 2016 and continues to provide direction focused on the three core values established in the plan.
- The [SAM Strategic Plan 2014-18](#) webpage is the location of the [Executive Director's SAM Strategic Plan Report for 2016-17](#).

### 2. SAM Office Update

- The SAM office structure is working well. The abilities of Pat Audet, Gary Wagner and Kim Scofield are valuable to our work for all Affiliates.
- YH Advisors (Brian Yacker, Partner), are working well with support for payroll, bookkeeping, and tax completion services – this assists with our financial operation and with internal controls important to the viability of our finances.
- SAM is implementing new association management software (MemberClicks) upgrading our website, database and tools that can be used by all SAM members.
- The [SAM website](#), a one-stop repository for member resources, has been fully upgraded.

### 3. Montana Unified Schools Trust ([MUST](#)) Update

- SAM is represented on the MUST Board by Brad Moore (Vice President and Superintendent at Big Sandy), Eldon (Chad) Johnson (Superintendent at Twin Bridges), and new SAM appointee Ken Taylor (Superintendent at Froid).
- SAM Executive Director, Kirk Miller serves with Lance Melton (MTSBA) and Eric Feaver (MEA-MFT) on the board of the Montana School Services Foundation (MSSF), the governing board for MUST and the staff who work for the trust.
- Andy Holmlund is President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Jeaneen Campbell is the Vice President of Operations.

### 4. Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) Update

- Click [HERE](#) to go to the MQEC website.
- MQEC is a key organization in the protection of education clause of the Montana's Constitution.
- The MQEC Board of Directors consisting of several SAM member superintendents and associations are currently reviewing the District and Federal court rulings and preparing for appropriate action to protect the education provisions of the Montana Constitution as applied to the implementation of SB 410 (Tuition Tax Credit bill). Click [HERE](#) for more details. Recent developments in the legal challenges have occurred and that information is on the webpage.

### 5. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership Update

- AKA – SAM members working together to literally have a seat at the table (input) on all efforts that affect the education of Montana's children.
- Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools.

- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana’s children!
- In 2017-18, SAM members have established a strong voice for the actions on: [Montana ESSA Plan](#), [Suicide Prevention](#), PK-12 School Funding Adequacy and Equity, K-12 Vision Group, [Interim Education Committee](#) Priorities, [Preschool](#), [Montana EPAS](#) (Educator Performance Appraisal System), [Montana Afterschool Alliance](#), [Montana Farm to School Leadership Team](#), [Broadband Access Initiatives](#), Study of Special Education Funding and Services ([HJ 1](#) 2017 legislative session), Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators ([RISE4MT](#), [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), and others), and [Montana Digital Academy](#) to name a few!

## 6. Professional Learning and Services Update

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- The [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program \(LPLP\)](#) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators. Four years of developing this delivery system has led to over 60 administrators in the 2017-18 program working in Collegial Learning Networks with coach/mentors to personalize a professional learning plan that will enhance their ability to serve their students, school and community!
- [SAM Administrators Institute 2017](#), “Leadership of Transformational Change & Personalized Learning to Impact the Whole Child”, provided great learning opportunities for our entire membership.
- Plans are complete to renew and develop an outstanding [MCEL 2017](#) (October 18-20, 2017). The venue is moved to downtown Billings at the Northern Hotel and Double Tree Hotel. Innovative technology and general session speakers will invigorate and motivate our Montana education leaders!
- [#SAMedchat](#) – weekly chat group to dialogue about key education issues.
- The [SAM website](#), a one-stop repository for member resources, has been fully upgraded.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 12 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ [‘Conferences’](#) tab on the website. MASSP and MAEMSP have scheduled a joint Montana Principals Conference scheduled for April 4-6, 2018!
- The [MACSS Conferences and Conventions](#) webpage has all the information about the Fall Conference.
- SAM implemented new association management software, upgrading website and tools for members.
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, SAM Bulletin and weekly SAM Updates, colleague networks, state and federal advocacy networks, legal assistance, professional liability insurance, technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions, use of social media, E-Lists, digital Committees to enhance member communication, many more...
- [SAM Membership Report 2017-18 as 9-11-17](#) shows 891 members so far. Thanks MACSS for getting your membership 2017-18 completed (MACSS has 55 members of SAM)!
- META successfully developed a national affiliation with the Consortium of School Networks (CoSN). A Montana CoSN State Chapter has been formed and will be presided over by a META CoSN Council (made up of the META Board) with META regions as the structure for the Chapter. Click [HERE](#) to review to learn more about the Chapter. The startup (launch) of the Chapter is underway. The formation of the Montana CoSN State Chapter permits any SAM member whose META member has joined the Chapter to become a member also, allowing access to the full slate of resources and benefits that CoSN has established.
- Request support of Superintendents to allow for central office personnel, principals, special education directors, and technologists to become members of their SAM affiliate and promote participation in professional learning opportunities through SAM.

## 7. Advocacy Update

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center ([MT-PEC](#)) creating a positive impact and strong voice on education policy issues.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor's office, Board of Public Education, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) has developed a long-range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level ([DA Steering Committee](#), [SAM Legislative Network](#)). Delegate Assembly met on June 15-16, 2017 creating recommendations for SAM's Advocacy Priorities. Jessica McWilliams represents MACSS on the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee.
- [Federal Advocacy](#) efforts and relationships with the Montana Congressional Delegation are important.

## 8. Contemporary Issues for Discussion

- State Revenue Shortfall and the Impact on Montana Schools – SAM [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#)
- School District Budgets and Taxation, SB 261 – SAM [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#)
- Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
  - [RISE4MT Update](#)
  - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
- Montana [ESSA Implementation](#)
- Student Mental Health Issues and [Suicide Prevention](#)
- [Montana School Broadband Project](#)
- [SAM LPLP 2017-18](#)
- Montana's Unprecedented [Fire Season](#)
- [MCEL 2017](#)
- [Montana Principals Conference 2018](#) – April 4-6 at Fairmont – Joint effort of MASSP and MAEMSP
- Click [HERE](#) to review the current status of SAM's Business Partnerships.
- [SAM Youth Endowment](#)

Thank you for your leadership of our association MACSS Executive Board members, and best wishes to all MACSS members on continued success for your schools!

Respectfully submitted,



SAM Executive Director