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September 21, 2011 – Reid Hall, (Room 123,) MSU-Bozeman, Bozeman, MT 59717

Call to Order – Chair

Mike Schulz called the meeting to order 11:10 a.m.

Members present : Chair Mike Schulz, UMW Library Director, Jules Waber, Powell County Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Pfister, President of Montana Association of County Superintendents, Dr. Jayne Downey, MSU – Bozeman Education Department Chair and Dan Rask, Executive Director.

Visitors present were: Dr. Larry Baker, MSU Dean of Education.

Dr. Baker welcomed the board and offered some insight into what MSU-Bozeman is hoping to do in collaboration with rural education efforts and the MSSA.

Approval of Minutes

- Kathy Pfister moved and Jules Waber seconded approval of the minutes of the June 22nd, 2011 board meeting. The motion carried.

Additions to the Agenda

- MTSBA Representation was changed from an action item to an informational item.

Unfinished Business

- **Executive Director's Position**: The position was discussed at length and discussion involved the FTE, independent contract, location of the office and compensation for the Executive Director. Kathy Pfister moved to offer Dan an independent contract for a total compensation of \$32,000.00 and workshop and related travel at the state rate. The position remains half-time. Jules seconded and all voted in favor.
- **The position of Office Manager** was reviewed, Sara Wagner has resigned and Dan will look for a replacement from the previous applicants.

New Business

- **Fiscal 2012 Accounting Bid**: JCCSCPA reduced their bid from \$850.00 monthly to \$450.00 monthly and the changes in the contract are quarterly instead of monthly compilation of finances and we will take over paying bills in January. All other items remain the same. Jules moved to enter into the contract with JCCSCPA at the new rate. Kathy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Stipend Amounts for Planning/Curriculum Team**: Dan proposed up to six stipends of \$500.00 each to develop a planning team for both professional development and curricular development during the current year. This team will reflect the state regions as best possible with instructors from member schools who indicate interest. Dan has six teachers who will work on the committee. Kathy moved to approve this team as presented and Jayne seconded. All voted in favor.
- **Jules reviewed the status of NREA dues** and indicated that we need to review our assessment and payment to the national office for 2010. Dan will review and correct this issue.

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Director's Report:

- Projected fund balance for the closing fiscal year is approximately \$55,000 dollars. The current account holds \$138,000 but that includes dues for the coming fiscal year.
 - Membership is up for this year with more high schools and schools using alternative standards. Dues will be reviewed this year and a team of Jules and Dan will undertake this task.
 - NREA membership notices have been sent out for 2011 and Dan will insure that the proper names and money goes to the national office for this coming year as well as correct 2010.
 - The Director reported that evaluations for the September workshops were very strong. 62 attended in Helena and 12 in Lewistown.
 - Kathy reported for MACSS on the coming annual meeting in Miles City. She reviewed the agenda and social activities that the county superintendents will have the opportunity to attend.
 - No MTSBA Report
 - U of M Western Education Department Chair reported that the library received a grant from an alumni and it was going to be used to digitalize the archives at U of M Western's library and alumni.
 - MSU Bozeman Department Chair, Dr. Jayne Downey reported on the institution's goals and rural initiatives that the college of education is undertaking and is quite excited to be a part of the MSA.
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Meeting Adjourned at 1:25 p.m.