



Montana Association of School Psychologists

General Business Meeting Minutes

September 26th at 4:00-5:00PM | Billings, MT

Minutes: Will need to approve previous General Business Minutes when quorum is present
[September 2024 General Business Minutes](#)

- Motion by: Jessica C., Seconded: Morgan

Attendees- Morgan Benge, Katie John, Jessica Carranza, Jess Hudson, Madison Yerian, Kim Story, Jackie Johnson-Wirth, Rhonda Remsen, Kristie Rutledge, Sigrid Noyd, Nievecitaz McGuire, Ben Radakovich, Audrey Jones, Casey Samollow, Tyler Paul, Patti Grassl

Called to order - 4:08pm

President Report: Katie

- Congratulations to our current NASP President and Montana Native, Shawna Rader Kelly!
- Review of Strategic Plan 2025-2026
 - *Here is a quick summary of our one-year goals*
 - *Create more opportunities for general membership to provide feedback to our EC*
 - *Increasing financial transparency between general membership and EC through posting our annual expenditure reports in June.*
 - *Increasing efficiency with on-boarding of new leadership members through additional training meetings with prior position holders and creating handouts summarizing our policies, procedures, and bylaws*
 - *Developing updated handouts about NASP-recommended ratios and current Montana ratios*
 - *Providing more information about contracted work for employers including the limitations of this work for school psychologists*
 - *Increasing our MASP general membership base through active recruitment methods*
 - *Reaching out to Superintendents, Principals, and Special Education directors with educational materials to help increase school psychologist recruitment and retention efforts*
 - *Provide on-going professional development opportunities through the year through SP2SP as well as continued PD partnerships with UM School Psychology Program RAISE Grant and the Montana School Counselor Association.*
 - *Most of our Three-to-Five-year goals involve furthering professional development opportunities focused on marginalized and rural populations, increasing recruitment*

efforts for more school psychologists in the state, and preparing for potential updates to the SLD criteria in the next legislative session.

- Review of Interstate Compact Initiative
 - *In the past year, the Montana Board of Education in collaboration with SAM and other state administration agencies amended the licensure requirements for school psychologists in the state. While their aim was to reduce barriers to people receiving the school psychologist license, its ramification impacted Montana's ability to be a part of the Interstate Compact. MASP will continue to move forward with trying to establish the Interstate Compact here in Montana. We are working to collaborate with Rep Dave Bedey to ask for his support in sponsoring a bill at the next legislative session to introduce the Compact. Rep Bedey has been responsive to our advocacy emails with an invitation to contact him for other relevant educational issues.*
 - *There were questions about what was changed and members were directed to the MASP website to find specifics*
- Leadership Opportunities Available
 - *Interested in being a part of a committee? We are always looking to build our leadership base even if you only have a few minutes a month to help out! We are flexible and have many different tasks to work around any time constraints you might have! If you are interested, but not sure if you want to dive in, we invite you to attend our winter retreat, which will be happening in Three Forks from January 16th to the 18th. For more information about the winter retreat or any other questions, please contact Katie John at maspexec@masponline.us*

President Elect Report: Madison

- We will be opening registration for our first SP2SP of this year next week.

Treasurer's Report: Jess

- Scholarship Savings: \$9,053.97
- Free Business Account: \$20,510.52
- Money Market Account: \$25,753.15
- Investments (CD's): \$13,619.88
- Filed 990-N tax forms
- Summary of Projected Budget for 2025-2026
 - There was a question related to what comes out of the professional development budget

NASP Delegate Report: Jessica

- Welcome to our interim NASP Delegate, Jessica Carranza!
- Working with MASP President to finalize the State Share Out for August and September. The next State Share out is due November 13th.
- NASP Elections: Self Nominations for the next three year delegate term starting 26-27 were due September 15th. This information about nominations was sent directly from NASP. Jessica Carranza is the only nominee listed for Montana; however, write-ins are still allowed when voting begins on January 7th, 2026 for all NASP election positions. You must be a NASP member in good standing by December in order to vote in elections.
- NSPW is 11/3-11/7
- Would like to do a raffle for NASP members in attendance. 25\$ coffee card as part of the delegate budget.
- Registration for NASP convention (Feb 24-27 in Chicago) opens October 1st. Early registration ends on Nov. 19th
- RLM is scheduled for February 22nd and 23rd before NASP convention. We have \$800 allocated to send the president elect in addition to the delegate (paid for by NASP).

- PPAC committee for NASP works with state associations to look at credentialing language in regards to the interstate compact.
 - Advocacy committee are interested in reaching out to get more information

Committee Reports:

Advocacy, Government and Public Relations: Jackie and Rhonda

- NSPW is in early November this year–11/3-11/7. We've contacted the Governor's office to request a 2025 NSPW Proclamation.
- We continue to work to move forward with the Interstate Compact. We've requested meetings with Adam Diersling and crew. Alex Sergent is working to find a time that Rhonda and I can zoom meet with the Compact support team.
- We have a draft email ready to send to Rep Dave Bedey to ask his support in drafting a bill re the Compact. We will send it after we meet with the Compact team and get their advice on what else to include in the email.
- We will be traveling to OPI to meet with special education staff. Our primary objectives will be to strengthen our OPI-MASP working relationships and to be part of the LD criteria discussions

Crisis Response: Andy and Shawna

- MASP has crisis response services available through this committee. Contact maspexec@masponline.us for assistance requests.

Ethics Committee: Bekah & Jess

- Welcome to our new co-chairs of this committee, Rebekah Blood and Jess Hudson. There is a form on our website where you can send us your questions regarding hypothetical ethical dilemmas or questions you may have in a case you are working on, but with no provided names, to receive feedback and ideas from our ethics committee.

Information Services: Katie, Megan, Anisa, & Maria

- MASP has some new merch available for purchase for those who attend fall conference in-person!
- Our Newsletter Editor, Anisa Goforth, is working on our Fall Newsletter, so don't forget to check out our newsletter page where you can read old newsletters and submit comments and ideas for future newsletters on our feedback form.

Membership Involvement: Nievécitas, Chad, Bri, Anisa

- Thank you to Anisa for her on-going work on this committee and a special thank you to Allison Brown and Juliana Robinson for all their work on this committee over the years. We would like to formally introduce our new Membership Involvement committee members who are Chad Pinkston (Elections and Networking), Nievécitas McGuire (SPOY Award process and Networking), and Bri Bosshart (conference social event planner).
- Review of state licensure data
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tkRIhfYzYnRdUu6MgoVZT-LfgBrbO9Fz/view?usp=sharing>)
 - Recruitment efforts have assisted in bringing in more school psychologists to the state!
- MASP Social set on Friday, September 26th from 6-8pm at Walkers Grill in Billings.
- We announced our 2025 School Psychologist of the Year today! Congrats to Kim Story from Missoula County Public Schools!

Credentialing and Professional Standards: Andy and Shawna

- Alongside the Interstate Compact impacts, the board's school psychologist licensing process has affected those looking to go through the Respecialization process. For further questions, you can reach out to Shawna Rader Kelly, whose contact information is available on our website.

Professional Development: Jessica, Morgan, and Madison

- We have 54 registered attendees for Fall Conference with 23 attending in person and 31 attending virtually. We have \$1200 in scholarship funds from MAEP to reimburse up to 15 attendees. We also have 5 neighboring state associations represented of those joining us virtually.
- New collaboration with UM School Psychology program to provide free professional development to MASP members through the RAISE Grant
- Continue collaboration with Montana School Counselors Association to offer hybrid conference in the spring
- Continue SP2SP professional development series this year

Ad hoc RAISE Grant Advisory: Megan

- No report at this time

Ad hoc Scholarship Committee: Katie, Kirsten, Madison

- We announced our 2025 student scholarship winner today, so congratulations to Caitlin Ward!

Ad hoc SLD Identification Model Committee: Kirsten, Rhonda, Megan, Chad, Amanda, Andy

- No report at this time

Liaison

MCEC - TBD

- Need a new person!

MCASE/SAM - Juliana

- Juliana, our MCASE/SAM liaison for MASP, has compiled a three page update with information regarding education bills passed in the 2025 legislative session as well as information related to how these bills will affect us, our educators, and our students. We will be sending this out via email to our membership base.

Mental Health- Jackie

- No report at this time

UM School Psychology Training Program - Anisa

- No report at this time

UM School Psychology Program Student Representative - Emily

- No report at this time

Old Business

- For those who did not know, MASP joined the Montana ACLU two years ago as a plaintiff in a lawsuit filed against SB99 from the 2023 Legislative Session regarding instruction of Human Sexuality, Orientation, and Gender Identity. When MASP initially joined this lawsuit, the language in the initial law was vague meaning there could have been significant impacts to how school psychologists and school counselors could address spontaneous conversations about sexual orientation and gender identity initiated by their students as well as general topics related to morality, such as SEL instruction in small group counseling sessions, one-on-one instruction, and classroom lessons. Fast forward to the 2025 legislative session, a bill was passed into law, HB471, that narrowed and clarified the language from SB99 making MASP's original claims no longer relevant. Our original claim involved the vagueness of the SB99 language that might have interfered with our ability to engage in spontaneous conversations with students about sexual orientation and gender identity in small group or individualized settings. Under HB471, these kinds of discussions are no longer prohibited like in SB99. In the new language of HB471, it mainly affects teachers providing sex education with this law now requiring teachers to send notice of lessons no less than 5 days but no more than 14 days ahead of the set instruction. Parents must also opt-in to their child taking a sex education course or any course with the purpose of exploring gender identity or expression instead of opt-out like it has been in the past. The ACLU needed MASP to decide whether or not to proceed with the original claims that we joined with in the Empower MT vs State lawsuit to challenge SB99 from the 2023 legislative

session. From our August executive council meeting, our leadership board voted to remove MASP as a plaintiff for this case as our initial arguments no longer apply.

Adjourned at 4:42pm