



Governing Board Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Location: Zoom Teleconference

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Ryan Holman, Snowline JUSD, Chair
Suzette Davis, Trona JUSD
Stephanie Houston, SBCSS
Jesse Najera, Silver Valley USD Co-Chair
Trenae Nelson, Apple Valley USD
Jeff Malan, Barstow USD
David Olney, Hesperia USD
Ron Williams, Victor Valley UHSD
Peter Livingston, Lucerne Valley USD
Matt Wells, MDCP JPA
Kendle Crowell, MDCP JPA

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Ryan Holman welcomed the group and conducted roll call.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Suzette Davis, with a second by Jesse Najera, the agenda was unanimously adopted as-is.

3.0 Matters Brought by Citizens

One guest was present - Kellie Williams, Snowline JUSD. No matters were brought forward.

4.0 Action Items

4.1 Approval, February 7, 2020 Minutes

On a motion by Ron Williams, with a second by Trenae Nelson, the February 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

4.2 Approval, Advisory Minutes from 2019-20

On a motion by Suzette Davis, with a second by Jesse Najera, the Advisory Minutes from the 2019-20 school year were unanimously approved.

4.3 Approval, MDCP Budget 2020-21 FY

On a motion by Jeff Malan, with a second by Ron Williams, the MDCP budget for the 2020-21 school year was unanimously approved.

4.4 Approval, Data Sharing Agreement MOU for JPA Members

On a motion by Jesse Najera, with a second by Suzette Davis, the Data Sharing Agreement MOU for JPA members was unanimously approved.

5.0 Discussion/Information Items

5.1 Precision Exams Update

- Once schools shut down and distance learning took effect, Precision Exams (PE) assessments were no longer able to be given, as the company was not able to come up with a viable virtual proctoring solution. In addition, no final exams were able to be given this year Matt pushed for PE to come up with a remote proctoring solution, but the company didn't come up with any option, outside of charging an additional \$15 fee per exam for remote proctoring. This has been a serious point of frustration for MDCP districts.
- Matt shared the number of exams given last year and compared to this year's numbers, which are substantially lower because of this.
- The Coordinator's position on this has been one of frustration. Schools were reaching critical mass on adoption of PE and teachers were getting used to the platform.
- At advisory meetings, there has been more buy in from industry about providing industry recognized certification. There is not a great competitor out there currently, if we were to stray away from PE. Unfortunately, no other companies cover the breadth of industry sector exams that PE does.
- The contract next year is built into the budget for \$45,000. If we were to offer students the option to take the exams remotely at \$15 per exam, that would add up to approximately \$137,000 in extra costs for the consortium.
- MDCP's contract has been extended to October, 2020, so the Board has some extra time to think about options moving forward. We can see what school looks like in the Fall and then determine the course to follow.
- Ryan commented that it is disappointing that PE could not come up with a remote solution during this crisis. They did the students a disservice by not allowing them to gain their certificates. It is unfortunate that there are no equal competitors, but we may need to come up with some other way to leverage this gap.

5.2 Grant Updates

Matt gave a review on Perkins, CTEIG and Strong Workforce grants:

- Perkins applications were submitted on June 15th.
 - It was all-hands-on-deck for the CLNAs, which was an extremely labor intensive process for the districts.
 - The regional advisory took place on June 5th and was a success. We had some key industry partners in attendance who presented valid input and it was valuable having Jeff Dnagan from general Atomics co-facilitate the meeting.
 - Matt hasn't heard anything about a reduction in Perkins grant awards as of yet. It is likely we will receive something similar to previous years.

- In the Governor's budget, he declared around a 50% reduction in the next rounds of CTEIG and SWP. This won't affect awards we have been approved to receive this year.
- Funds should be accessible to districts in July.

5.3 Update on K12 SWP Positions

- The K12 SWP grant implemented funding for K12 Pathway Coordinator positions. In partnership with SBCSS, MDCP came up with two Curriculum Specialist positions.
- Matt announced Jessica Swift and Carrie O'Neal were the applicants selected to fill the positions. They will start with MDCP later in the week.
- The Curriculum Specialists will be helpful in building bridges and relationships between K12 and the community colleges and they will assist in a variety of crossroad projects to curricularly align current CTE offerings, community college programs and industry needs.

5.4 VVC & BCC Articulation Update

Matt informed the Board that grades are due this Friday for students who should receive college credits.

- Both colleges agreed that if the students met the competencies before the closures, they should still receive the credits. There will likely be a dip in articulated credits awarded due to COVID, but they will still be positive.
- Districts have been helpful in getting their students to apply for VVC and BCC in order to get their credits.
- Both colleges are now using spreadsheets to track articulated grades, which is helpful for MDCP so we know how many people are submitting. MDCP tracks the number of articulated credits each year and Andy Page has been tracking grades coming in from each district.
- BCC has decided to do annual articulations. Each district must sign a form and conduct meetings between the K12 and CC to agree on the terms of the agreements. There is no MOU currently in place with BCC.
- VVC was on a 2-year MOU cycle, but the frustration has been that when a district adds a course in the middle of that cycle, they couldn't add that class until the next round. To assist with that, VVC agreed to change to an annual cycle. The intention is that articulations are completed by March, but there have been some areas where getting VVC staff to respond and agree has been tough. Dr. Walden and Lee Bennett have been understanding of these struggles and agreed to push the MOU date to this summer.
- Matt reviewed the current agreements across districts with the Board.
- Ryan thanked Matt for being a great advocate of this work.
- Stephanie echoed that sentiment and shared a personal account of the value of articulation.

5.5 Board Study Session Date Selection

The decision was made to move the Board Study Session to a time when the group can meet in person, while adhering to the current guidelines. The study session could be offered virtually, as well.

- Ryan proposed July 22nd as a tentative date for this session. The group had conflicts, so Ryan noted that a Doodle poll will be sent out to determine a date.
- Silver Valley starts school the first week in August, so beyond the third week in July, it will be hard for Jesse to accommodate.
- A new Superintendent of Trona has been selected and Ryan can contact him to check his availability and make sure he can attend.

5.6 Fall 2020 Events

Matt discussed the tentative schedule for next year's events:

- For advisories, we can conduct them virtually if need be. If we can be in person, the goal is to find an industry location to hold the advisories. Matt is working with VVC to agree on dates when their staff can attend for articulation purposes.
- Coordinating council can continue meeting virtually. If we do it in person, we will hold them at industry locations if/when possible. Board members are always welcome to attend those meetings. We are still hoping that an industry representative can attend (in person or virtually) to discuss current industry trends and inform work of the group.
- For job shadowing/teacher collaboration, we would love to stick with the same plan as last year (4 hours job shadowing in the morning and afternoon collaboration together to debrief), but due to COVID regulations and guidelines, we don't want to add any stress to industry partners and will just be holding collaborations virtually with the option of a guest speaker from industry on the call.
- If a teacher wants to find a place to shadow or extern, MDCP is happy to help with that process.
- We plan to have guest speakers from industry host virtual chats with teachers and students.
- Each year, there are student competitions with MDCP districts and VVC. Matt shared the tentative schedule, which is usually in the fall. Matt asked if we should keep the dates and then see what the Fall looks like and if there is a need to push them back. The Board agreed with Matt that the Fall is still so unknown, it won't hurt to keep the place savers with the likely possibility of moving them later in the year. Ryan suggested holding Spring dates as well, just in case.

5.7 MDCP Thank You Efforts for Key Partners

Originally, we scheduled an April date to hold a thank you banquet for our industry partners. It was cancelled due to COVID, but we still want to honor those partnerships and celebrate the success of our region and students. We have September 29th held as a follow up date. We are planning to move forward as if this will happen and the planning will start in August.

Ryan commented that if the banquet can't happen, we should send something to our partners to recognize them and their hard work. We have such great momentum in the region right now.

5.8 MDEP Update

Four Team meetings took place on June 16th. Since we have gone virtual, we have had better attendance than in the past. Partners are committing to multiple team meetings and subcommittee meetings in between.

Matt gave a summary of the work taking place on the four teams.

Team 1:

- Their focus has been around starting a virtual startup lab, with an Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneur center to open later in Barstow. This would assist in launching new business, assisting startups, helping existing businesses, offering resources, mentors, etc.

Team 2:

- Focus has been on creating a value proposition that will be presented to four year entities to encourage them to build a presence in the region. We have qualified students who tend to leave the region to earn a degree elsewhere, but they don't tend to come back. VVC has facilities, faculty, and students, so we just need four year entities and their programs.

Team 3:

- Jeff Dunagan from General Atomics is working to build out a mechatronics pathway, including a web series, to get teachers and students to see what it looks like inside that industry, the different career paths, and what the opportunities are. Many teachers want to know more about what Mechatronics is. Teachers would love to help students understand the opportunities, but they first need to understand the opportunities themselves.

Team 4:

- The Essential Skills publication was released last month. Hundreds of local partners endorsed the skills. Both CCs are endorsing, as well. For districts that want to adopt (whatever that looks like) the MDEP essential skills, the intention is not to build a curriculum around it, it will be more about utilizing existing CTSO and other similar curriculum and incorporating it in a way that makes the most sense to the teachers.

Other comments:

- OFCV wrapped up a 2-year contract with MDEP and they have been phenomenal in mentoring and co-facilitating the effort. We have come so far in 2 years and have great momentum at this point.
- Ryan thanked SBCSS for their ongoing support and the value added by them funding Sheila and Kim.
- Jesse asked how to get caught up, for those that haven't been able to attend regularly. Matt responded that anyone can jump in and join a team(s) of interest at any time. Matt is also happy to meet one on one to give a more in depth review to anyone interested.

- Dave shared that the traction in the last couple months has been exciting. Seeing the pieces fall into place is meaningful. The marriage between MDEP and MDCP is also going very well.
- Matt shared that there might be funding streams down the road, so we are still doing our homework in trying to find a solution to avoid continuing using MDCP dollars and accounts to support this work.
- We may need to come up with a different meeting schedule, since there are conflicts for some of the superintendents and other community partners. We want the meetings to be as accessible as possible.

5.9 SBCSS ROP Update

Stephanie Houston gave an overview on the Innovation and Engagement Branch, including the Alliance for Education and County ROP, as well as the partnership between those entities and MDCP/MDEP:

- For the past couple years, SBCSS has reimagined the Alliance for Education and ROP departments, which fall under the “new” Innovation and Engagement Branch.
- Perception of the Alliance for Education was often surrounded by uncertainty and confusion.
- They are using a collective impact model, similar to MDEP, in SBConnect.
- ROP is nested in the branch and they are trying to figure out the buckets of work that are associated with what each department is working on.
- ROP are the experts in Career Tech Ed and provide support to districts in whatever way they may need. Some districts aren’t large enough to have capacity for large regional grants, so ROP can assist and collaborate with them on those. They offer some programs at some of the high schools and charters. An ROP curriculum bank is available, but not required. The DSP hub is a state supported project for direct support professionals.
- Stephanie gave an update about the Alliance for Education certification of Essential Skills, which will be validated by the San Bernardino and Riverside County Workforce Investment Boards for our region to us. They will encompass the Essential Skills that have come out of MDEP.
- The budget for the Alliance comes from restrictive grant funds and some from the state. There is a lot of leverage of resources that all districts will have access to.
- There is no cost associated with accessing anything in the Alliance for Education department, including ROP resources. They want to support and enhance the work already being done, and not take over any of that work.
- They have provided resources out of the ROP general fund for Andy Page to work with MDCP. That relationship will strengthen the work of MDCP.
- The ability for SBCSS to augment what was given by the SWP grant for the Curriculum Specialists allowed them to recruit some higher level coordinators. Those are a couple of examples of the strong working relationships between the Alliance and MDCP.
- If there are any districts that want to use SBCSS worker’s comp. to cover students in community classroom settings, that is something that is available at no cost to the districts. SBCSS would originate an agreement and teachers involved would have a level of PD support that would go along with that.

- Community classroom is paused due to COVID, but can be revisited later.
- Ted Alejandre sits on the executive committee for GIA and the MDCP/MDEP work fits right in with their mission. Non profits get more access to philanthropic dollars, so leveraging GIA for that support would be a huge advantage.

Questions/Comments:

- Ryan commented that it will be nice to learn more about the changes in Alliance for Education and it is certainly refreshing to know that districts no longer have to pay a fee to access the tools and resources available through the ROP.
- Matt appreciates the collaboration. The Alliance Team has experience in using Nepris and other WBL opportunities, so sharing resources has been a good partnership.
- Stephanie commended the progress made in our HD region and the system that has been created.
- Suzette asked about opportunities for Trona's students to be able to take part in WBL opportunities, since the closest businesses available to them are in Kern county. Has that been discussed at a county level? Stephanie replied: Workforce and Economic Development is regional and commuting, including commuting outside the county lines, is a regular occurrence for our working population. Determining a pipeline for those students in Trona should be no different than in other districts. Matt added that all districts within MDCP use a common Affiliation Agreement, which should help when Trona gets a program up and running. Matt will utilize ROP to understand the requirements for teachers so Trona is familiar with all the processes. Suzette will work with their new Superintendent and schedule a meeting with Matt/SBCSS to determine next steps.

5.10 MDCP Governing Board 2020-21 Meeting Dates

The idea is to move the dates away from the marathon dates following the Superintendent Meetings and CA HELP Board Meetings.

Ryan proposed the idea of meeting Fridays at the end of the month, before or after the regularly scheduled HD luncheons.

The Board concurred that meeting more regularly would be beneficial and holding MDCP meetings *before* the luncheon would provide more time for Matt to present and discuss MDCP issues.

6.0 Chair/Vice-Chair Selection for 2020-21

The group unanimously nominated Ryan Holman to continue as Chair of the Board.

On a motion by Trenae Nelson, with a second by Ron Williams, Ryan Holman was selected to serve as Chair of the MDCP Board for the 2020-21 year.

The group unanimously nominated Dave Olney to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board.

On a motion by Jesse Najera, with a second by Trenae Nelson, Dave Olney was selected to serve as Vice-Chair of the MDCP Board for the 2020-21 year.

7.0 Board Member Comments

- Jesse commended everyone's work and was appreciative of the meeting content.
- Stephanie thanked everyone for welcoming her into the group. She hopes that the work being done at SBCSS is building a trust collateral and she commended the great work of MDCP and MDEP.
- Trenae commented that she appreciates the support of all the Superintendents and Matt during what has been a challenging year.
- Dave thanked everyone for the patience and hard work, which is certainly paying off. He commended Stephanie for the great work taking place at SBCSS and the promise of a stronger, more collaborative partnership.
- Suzette praised the work being done.
- Ron Williams echoed the positive comments from the group and commended Dave for the amazing champion he has been on the MDEP Team 2 work.
- Ryan thanked the MDCP team for their work and noted that we are seeing the fruits of a lot of labor. This is a great group of Superintendents who want to be part of something bigger than themselves.

8.0 JPA Staff Comments

- Matt commented that it has been a great year and we are making strides in the right direction. Everyone is invested in shifting and pivoting to ensure student success and that is consistently apparent with this group.
- Matt asked everyone to please review the new GIS map of CTE programs in our region and the other data reports that Andy Page has been working on. We want everyone to feel empowered by the information, so we welcome any feedback to meet the needs of each district.

9.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Dave Olney, with a second by Suzette Davis, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.