



**Minutes  
Montana Board of Regents  
July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Thursday, July 15th**

Meeting convened at 8:30am

Regents Present: Casey Lozar, Chair; Bob Nystuen; Brianne Rogers; Joyce Dombrowski, Todd Buchanan, Loren Bough, and Amy Sexton. Ex officio members included: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier, and Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Lozar

Chair Lozar welcomed all attendees and thanked those for traveling to Helena for the summer business meeting and session. Chair Lozar extended congratulations to Regent Sexton as being reappointed by Governor Gianforte as a repeat student regent. He also recognized Regent Sexton's unique tenure on the board as being primarily virtual and is looking forward to the meetings post-pandemic. Chair Lozar briefly reviewed the meeting agenda items and topics of discussion.

Approval of Minutes

- May 26-27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of May 26-27, 2021 Minutes was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Christian extended thanks to all the board members for their attendance at this meeting. He commended the board's efforts to travel across the state and their hard work and dedication over the challenging past year.

- Fall Return to Campus

Commissioner Christian spoke to the hard work campuses are putting forth in preparation for the fall semester and their excitement to have students back on campus again. As discussed in May, the plan is for a relatively normal fall semester. He acknowledged the challenging year it has been for campuses. There will still be a need for precautions as we navigate this new normal. These precautions will include providing remote access for students, as well as testing and quarantining. He explained that vaccines would play a role in this fall's return based on current medical advice. He has asked campuses to encourage and incentivize students to get vaccinated by readily available and easily accessible vaccines.



- Preview of September Board Meeting

Commissioner Christian explained a return to normal for this Board as well. Therefore, the plan is to have the September Board Meeting back on campus. Board members have expressed the importance of connecting with students, faculty and staff, and the community on campus. This meeting will be in Butte, MT, at Montana Tech on September 15-16th.

Commissioner Christian announced Jasmine Casanovas as a new addition to the Commissioner's team. She will be filling the role of Executive Assistant to this Board and the Commissioner. He further announced that Amy Unsworth has taken on a new role in Student Assistance. He extended further gratitude to Jasmine, Marlys, Jared, and Edwina for their efforts to help make virtual board meetings a success.

Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, provided an update on compensation for student-athletes. This update included a description of two significant components around this issue. The NCAA's education-related benefits for student-athletes was previously capped for items like tuition, room and board, and books. A recent decision by the US supreme court struck down the limits by indicating that the NCAA had violated antitrust rules by setting a nationwide limit on education-related expenses. Ms. Thigpen provided additional information regarding compensation that an athlete may receive for use of the student's name, image, or likeness (NIL). On July 1st, the NCAA adopted an interim rule to allow student-athletes to be compensated for their NIL in certain cases. Ms. Thigpen stated that the System is focused on providing/supporting training for student-athletes on these issues. She noted that pay-to-play activities remain prohibited. Campuses are currently preparing and creating policy for implementing these changes prior to athletics beginning this fall. Discussion followed.

Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, updated the Board on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that Congress passed last March. She also discussed House Bill 632, passed by the legislature last session. Ms. Thigpen described the components of House Bill 632 and noted that Ron Muffick at OCHE has been working on the infrastructure commissions by preparing submissions for water and sewer projects. Ms. Thigpen further described the three proposals submitted to the economic workforce commission by OCHE. Discussion followed.

- Campus Reports
- Other

Remarks by Governor Gianforte (or Designee)

Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor, provided a brief update on behalf of Governor Gianforte. Mr. Klapmeier congratulated Regent Sexton on her reappointment to the Board of Regents. Mr. Klapmeier spoke to the recent meetings and discussions for the upcoming Board of Education, chaired by the Governor. Mr. Klapmeier spoke to a recent meeting between Governor Gianforte



and Commission Christian, where the Governor discussed four priorities, he would like the University System to pursue 1. underlying costs of higher education at universities in Montana 2. graduation rates 3. innovation 4. public private partnerships. Mr. Klapmeier expressed gratitude for the partnership established with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education staff. He further noted that at the Education Interim Committee Meetings the day before, they discussed several items of interest to the Governor's office. These included HB 403, HB 279, career and technology education, school choice and instructional innovation, HB 47, and underlying costs of higher education. Discussion followed.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen provided an update for the Board regarding efforts and events at the Office of Public Instruction. See full update in Appendix A.

**CONSENT**

Staff Items:

- a. Request for Authorization for Rangeland Analytics, Inc. to License and Use UM-Owned Intellectual Property; UM Missoula *ITEM 195-1001-R0721 | Attachment #1*

Emeriti Faculty:

- b. Rucker; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 195-2001-R0721*
- c. Young; MSU Extension Service *ITEM 195-2401-R0721*
- d. Christensen; MSU Billings *ITEM 195-2701-R0721*

A motion for approval of the consent agenda a. – d. was made by Regent Sexton; passed; motion passed (7-0).

**ACTION**

- a. Request for Authorization to Increase Board of Regents Authority for the Remodel of Aber Hall; UM Missoula *ITEM 195-1002-R0721 | Attachment #1*

Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration, presented this request, consistent with MCA18-2-102(b) and in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, that the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorize the University of Montana-Missoula to increase authority from \$1,600,000 to \$3,200,000 for the remodel of Aber Hall.

A motion for approval of action item a. Item 195-1002-R0721 was made by Regent Dombrowski, motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request for Approval of MontPIRG Fee; UM Missoula *ITEM 195-1003-R0721 |*



Attachment #1

Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, presented this request for the Board of Regents to approve an opt-out MontPIRG fee of \$5 per semester and \$2.50 per summer semester for the period of July 15, 2021 through June 30, 2022, subject to the conditions set forth in this item.

A motion for approval of action item b. Item 195-1002-R0721 was made by Regent Sexton. Public Comment: Jack Rinck, a student at UM, spoke in support of the proposed MontPIRG Fee item. Tor Gudmundsson, current Vice Chair of MontPIRG Student Board, spoke in support of the proposed MontPIRG Fee item. Alexa Runnion, a student at UM and Chair of MontPIRG Student Lead Board of Directors, spoke in support of the proposed MontPIRG Fee item. The motion passed (7-0).

Chair Lozar convened an executive session. He determined that the matters of discussion relate to matters of individual privacy and that the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Executive Session

- Annual Review – Commissioner Christian

Meeting Adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

09/21/2021

Date

Clayton T. Christian  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

10/04/2021

Date

Casey Lozar  
Chair, Board of Regents

# APPENDIX A



# Montana

## Office of Public Instruction

Education Interim Committee  
July 14, 2021

Crystal Andrews | Educator Licensure Director | Office of Public Instruction





# Recruitment and Retention

Question:

*How has teacher recruitment and retention been affected by the pandemic?*

Four Key Data Points Before and After COVID.

1. Emergency Authorization Data
2. Accreditation Deviation Trends
3. Trends in number of new licenses in critical shortage areas
4. ESSER State Plan Critical Shortage Report

# Emergency Authorization

## 1. Emergency Authorization Data

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
30	20	4	7	8	0	0	No data	1	2	14	18	23	43	94	84	120

### Key Takeaway-

There is a significant increase in the past three years which includes the one school year that COVID impacted. The highest subject area for was Elem Ed (K-8)=46 (40%). 22% of the Emergency Authorizations were in Comprehensive Schools, which make up 5% of total schools.





# Accreditation Deviation Trends

## 2. 5 Year Accreditation Deviation Trends taken from TEAMS

Deviations	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
<b>Teacher Licensure and Assignment</b>					
Nonlicensed Teacher - Schools	53	71	61	69	136
Nonlicensed Teacher - Teachers	67	88	71	103	184
Misassigned Teacher - Schools	63	60	54	62	76
Misassigned Teacher -Teachers	81	66	58	68	87

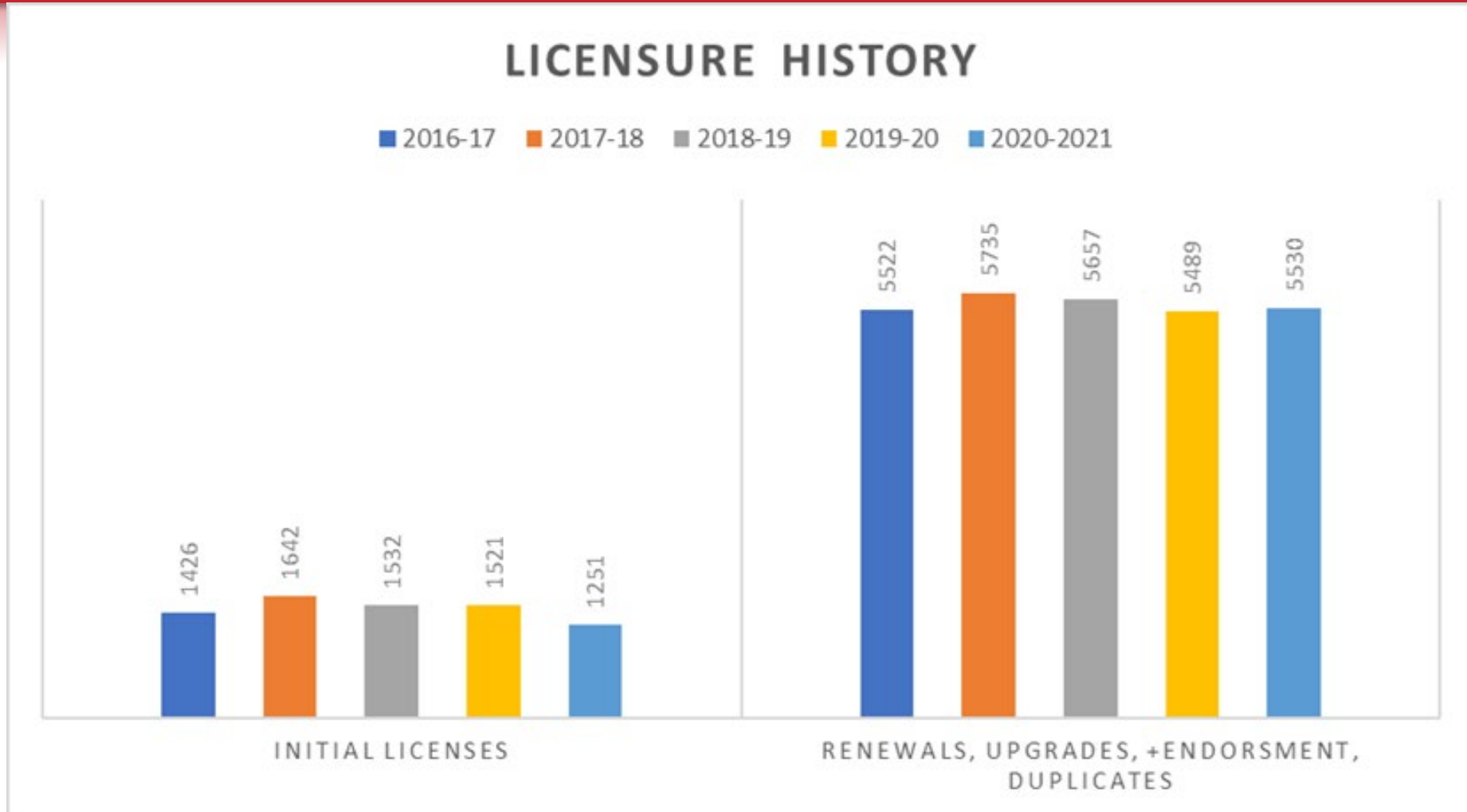


# Critical Shortage Areas for Initial Licenses

## 3. New Licenses in Fields of Critical Endorsement Shortages

License Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Art	35	48	34	37	28
Career & Technical Education	35	33	22	31	26
Elementary	496	619	568	600	470
English	100	99	124	84	73
Health	63	61	66	63	60
Library	12	16	4	9	3
Mathematics	46	68	59	67	54
Music	48	46	45	35	37
Principal	10	21	17	17	16
Science (Broadfield)	36	48	49	38	35
School Counselor	48	35	39	40	31
School Psychologist	13	18	7	23	21
Social Studies	58	68	63	62	61
Special Education	93	103	111	119	93
Superintendent	3	9	6	4	1
Supervisor	0	0	0	0	1
World Languages	23	36	21	22	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1119</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>1039</b>

# Trend Data





# Critical Shortage Report 2021

## 4. ESSER State Plan Critical Shortage Report

Key Takeaways-

<p>Educators (as a whole)</p>	<p><u>Critical Shortage Report 2021</u>            Total FTE to Hire* - 1513.45            Possible to Hire - 502.14 (33%)            Difficult / Not Filled - 1011.31 (67%)            Filled with Emergency Auth or Provisional License - 826 (55%)</p> <p><u>TEAMS Deviation Data 2021:</u>            Nonlicensed Teachers - 184            Misassigned Teachers - 87</p>
<p>School Systems with Reservation Schools, All Educators</p>	<p><u>Critical Shortage Report 2021</u>            Total FTE to Hire* - 175.73            Possible to Hire - 19 (11%)            Difficult / Not Filled - 156.73 (89%)            Filled with Emergency Auth or Provisional License - 146 (83%)</p>



# Critical Shortage Report 2021

	Provisional License - 146 (85%)
Not Large or Urban Districts	<u>Critical Shortage Report 2021</u> Total FTE to Hire* - 807.4 Possible to Hire - 143.23 (18%)
	Difficult / Not Filled - 664.17 (82%) Filled with Emergency Auth or Provisional License - 649 (80%)

	PROVISIONAL LICENSE - 177 (25.7%)
Special educators and related service Personnel and paraprofessionals	<u>Critical Shortage Report 2021</u> Total FTE to Hire* - 191.51 Possible to Hire - 22.6 (12%) Difficult / Not Filled - 168.91 (88%) Filled with Emergency Auth or Provisional License - 75 (39%)