

## **Meeting Minutes, MQEC Board Meeting, Thursday, May 15, 2008**

The meeting was convened by President Tom Cotton via conference call at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was present consisting of the following:

1. Bruce Messinger
2. Harry Cheff
3. Lance Melton
4. Doug Sullivan
5. Darrell Rud
6. Mike Nicosia
7. Tom Cotton
8. Marco Ferro
9. Eric Feaver
10. Andy Holmlund
11. Jack Copps

Members Absent: Peter Marchi

### **1. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2008**

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the March 13, 2008 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Executive Director's Report, Mike Nicosia**

Mike indicated that his report would be adequately covered through discussion on remaining agenda items.

### **3. Committee Reports: Remedy Committee, Bruce Messinger**

Bruce reported that he had presented the MQEC Remedy proposal to the Board of Public Education. Executive Director Steve Meloy indicated that the Board of Public Education would be meeting for long range planning on July 9 and would be inviting a representative of MQEC to the meeting to provide input to the Board regarding their strategic planning. Bruce further reported that he has previously presented the MQEC Remedy proposal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the Governor's Office and is encouraged by the Office of Public Instruction's incorporation of elements of the remedy proposal into their budget proposal submitted to the Governor's office.

Bruce reported that MTSBA has prepared and posted a webinar on its website that focuses on the background information and recommendations of the MQEC Remedy Proposal. Eric Feaver asked if the PowerPoint that Bruce has used before the Board of Public Education could be shared and Bruce advised that he would send it to the entire MQEC Board.

A discussion of the potential for a special session took place, focused on the proposal being advanced by Senator Ryan and others.

### **4. Litigation Status – Jim Molloy**

Jim Molloy updated the board regarding recent activities in the litigation. Judge Sherlock has ordered a show cause hearing on whether the state has complied with its constitutional obligations under Columbia Falls Elementary v. State. The decision took longer than we had hoped and as a result the timelines on further proceedings are not likely to create a solution in time for the FY09 school fiscal year. Deadlines pending include witness and exhibit disclosures (June 12 for MQEC, July 12 for the State, August 7 deadline for the state to

identify their expert(s) and final pretrial discovery closing September 5, 2008), and a five day hearing starting on September 22. There are a number of possibilities regarding how this litigation could be resolved, including possibilities of appeal.

#### **5. 2009 Legislative Session**

A motion was made by Andy Holmlund and seconded by Bruce Messinger to accept Aidan Myhre's resignation as MQEC's legislative consultant. The motion passed unanimously.

The board discussed possible options for MQEC legislative consultants and agreed to have Tom Cotton collect suggested names from MQEC board members to determine next steps.

#### **6. Executive Director's Contract – July 1**

A motion was made by Lance Melton and seconded by Darrell Rud to offer a renewal of the contract with Columbia Falls School District for another year. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Other –**

Eric Feaver identified concern with pending ballot issues and urged MQEC to keep track of and become involved in the pending ballot issues.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.