

MASS Fall Conference

Monday, September 14

Room

7:30 - 8:00 **Continental Breakfast & Registration**

8:00 - 8:10 **Welcome, Introduction & Program Overview**

Randy Cline, President, MASS

8:10 - 8:30 **Opening Remarks**

The Honorable Jon Tester, United States Senator from Montana

8:30 - 9:15 **Update Keynote Presentation - AASA Policy and Advocacy**

AASA President David R. Schuler, Superintendent, Township High School District 214, Arlington Heights, IL

AASA represents the dreams, educational expertise and concerns of nearly 10,000 local school system leaders to the three branches of the federal government. AASA enables the advocacy of its membership by sharing timely information that creates meaning out of the complex issues. Nobody else represents the voices of school superintendents on Capitol Hill. Advocacy is where AASA's voice on education policy comes to life. Every day, whether it is fighting for funding, a better relationship between federal, state and local government, or for programs that make a difference for children, AASA is standing up for public education in Washington, D.C.

9:15 - 9:30 **Break & Visit with Exhibitors**

9:30 - 10:25 **Outlook on Ed Issues - School Administrators, Athletic Administrators, and Coaches Regarding LGBTQ Students**

Donald Wattam, Ed.D, Central Washington University, Higher Education, Educational Leadership, Educational Management and Rory Weishaar, Ed.D. Assistant Professor - Athletic Administration PESPH, Central Washington University

In 2014, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Americans have achieved greater equality in our country. That year a transgender woman graced the cover of *Time* and was the first transgender actor to be nominated for an Emmy award. Michael Sam came out prior the NFL draft along with numerous college athletes, and even some high school athletes. Most recently (June 26, 2015) the Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage for all 50 states. While acceptance is catching up with the equity in our country, schools are faced with the challenge of ensuring the rights of LGBTQ students and athletes are protected. The speakers will go over survey results and offer suggestions for administrators.

10:30 - 11:20 **Breakout Session 1**

1. Improving School Culture by Getting Connected

Rory Weishaar, Ed.D. Assistant Professor - Athletic Administration PESPH, Central Washington University

A proposed plan by the speaker describes how getting a school connected, and then enhancing those connections through the use of *My Voice* surveys, the school may attain a positive school culture which bolsters school improvement and may raise graduation rates. Sustaining the connectedness within the school is important, and perceptions are, ultimately, what matters when it comes to behavior control. In order to keep positive connections between students and teachers, the speaker suggests using the *iKnow My Class* surveys to garner a better understanding of students' perceptions about classroom culture as well. The areas where students' perceptions weigh-in low on a survey's scale mean educators must affect change in those areas to positively influence a perceptual shift.

2. School Improvement: Get out of the binder and into the classroom

Daniel Sybrant, Ed.D. Director of Public School Systems Accreditation, AdvanceED and Loyd Rennaker, Superintendent of Darby Schools

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Often school improvement programs are scattered and driven by only few individuals. Also, after a plan is created few know about the plan and there is not a good way to verify the plan or measure the progress of the goals. Come and learn about how districts throughout the state are using the AdvancED school improvement process--a research based methodology aimed at improving student performance in individual schools and complete districts. All staff members are involved in the district improvement process, community members are given a voice and the entire process is driven by data.

11:30 - 12:30 **MASS Luncheon**

Recognizing Regional Superintendent of the Year Recipients

Randy Cline, President, MASS & Laurie Barron, President Elect, MASS

12:30 - 1:15 **Outlook on Ed Issues - Leverage Conflict as Way to Improve Dialogue, Creativity, and Performance in School Systems**

Mike Siebersma, Director, Center for Strengthening Education Systems, Education Northwest

Education leaders are likely to be skeptical when they are encouraged to make conflict a part of their system culture. Indeed, many leaders see the avoidance of conflict as a mark of their success. A traditional view of conflict is that it is a problem that interferes with achieving system wide goals and that it hinders emphasis on cooperation, harmony and collaboration. For most people, the word conflict invokes thoughts of war, prolonged strife between parties, and the determination of winners and losers. Indeed, conflict can be all those things, but when understood and managed appropriately, conflict can be the root of personal and social change; it can be the medium through which problems are aired and solutions found. In order to leverage conflict as way to improve dialogue, creativity, and performance in school systems, it is important that leaders have some understanding of how to assess conflict, manage it, and learn from it.

1:20 - 2:10 **Breakout Session II**

1. Starting an Academic Booster Club

Loyd Rennaker, Superintendent of Darby Schools

Are you overwhelmed by fundraising? Is your budget too tight to offer the exciting educational opportunities your students want? Do you want a better connection with your community? If you answered yes to these questions, then start an Academic Booster Club. In this presentation you will be introduced to a replicable model to support your school's vision to help. Darby Schools started an academic booster club, The Darby Schools Excellence Fund 10 years ago. During those ten years over \$250,000 has been raised and used to support academic programs for our students outside of the budget! You will be introduced to our model which you can mimic, or you will come away inspired with your own idea to improve your school!

2. More Than Making the Grade: Standards-Based Grading and Reporting

Colet Bartow, Content Standards and Instruction, Montana Office of Public Instruction

This introduction to standards-based grading and reporting is intended for you to define "standards-based," learn about key issues to consider, and resources to explore as you plan for implementation of standards-based grading and reporting. The information in this presentation is intended to help you being to examine current practices and identify where you can more positively and powerfully use grading and reporting to support students in realizing their potential.

2:10 - 2:20 **Transition & Visit with Exhibitors**

2:25 - 3:15 **Breakout Session III**

1. Supervisor's Interactive Model of Organizational Relationships

Dr. John Matt, Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, Dr. Bill McCaw, Professor, and Dr. Frances O'Reilly, Associate Professor, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education & Human Science, The University of Montana

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The Supervisor's Interactive Model of Organizational Relationships (SIMOR) integrates two models addressed in the leadership literature and then highlights the importance of relationships. The Supervisor's Interactive Model of Organizational Relationships combines the modified Hersey and Blanchard model of situational leadership, the Glickman Developmental Supervision Model, and considers relationships within the organization to form a more comprehensive picture of the supervisee's supportive and supervisory needs. This model provides supervisors with a more realistic and useful framework to guide their supportive interactions with supervisees.

2. Operation Lifesaver

Don Matlock, Assistant State Coordinator, Montana Operation Lifesaver

A brief overview of the Operation Lifesaver rail safety program to be followed by a discussion on how Operation Lifesaver could be useful to your educational programs and also for your bus drivers.

3:15 - 3:25

Break & Visit with Exhibitors

3:25 – 3:45

Update from Montana Quality Education Association

Dianne Burke, Executive Director, MQEC

3:45 - 4:05

Update from Office of Public Instruction

Dennis Parman Deputy Superintendent , OPI

4:05 - 4:15

Day One Closing Remarks

Randy Cline, President, MASS

5:00

Monday Night Football Reception-

MASS Fall Conference

Tuesday, September 15

Room

7:00 - 8:00 **Hot Breakfast Available**

8:00 - 8:45 **MASS Business Meeting**
Presiding – MASS President, Randy Cline

AASA National Conference on Education
February 11-13 in Phoenix, AZ

Incentive Award
Laurie Barron, MASS President-Elect

AASA Governing Board/Executive Committee Report
Julie Walker, Ron Whitmoyer & Leland Stocker

AASA Federal Relations Report/Incentive Award Report
Dennis Gerke, MASS Federal Relations Coordinator

SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee Report
Rick Duncan, DA Steering Committee Chari & Mass Representative

SAM Update
Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

8:45 - 9:00 **Break & Visit with Exhibitors**

9:00 - 10:30 **School Size Caucus**
AA Schools -- Facilitated by Rob Watson, Bozeman
A Schools -- Facilitated by Ross Farber, Dawson County
B Schools -- Facilitated by Rick Duncan, Powell County
C Schools -- Facilitated by Brad Moore, Big Sandy
K-8 Schools -- Facilitated by Corey Austin, Target Range

10:30 - 10:45 **Break & Visit with Exhibitors**

10:45 - 12:00 **Myths and Lies that Deceive the Public and Harm American Public Education**
David C. Berliner, Regents' Professor Emeritus of Education, Arizona State University

This presentation will discuss some myths and outright lies that have some currency in contemporary times. Addressed will be the STEM scam, the belief that we do not perform well on international tests, the cruel decision to retain large number of children in grade, the nonsense said by conservatives about the effects of early childhood education, and a look at some unbelievable data about charters and private schools.

12:00 **Closing Remarks**
Randy Cline, President MASS