



**Montana Digital Academy Governing Board Meeting  
June 14, 2021**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

**Members:**

Chair Joel Graves, Principal, Lincoln County High School  
Anthony Lapke, Vice-Chair, Teacher, Glacier High School  
Adrea Lawrence, Dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, University of Montana  
Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair, Board of Trustees, Helena School District No.1  
Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner, Academic, Research & Student Affairs, Office of the  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction

**Staff:**

Robert Currie, Executive Director, MTDA  
Jason Neiffer, Assistant Director/Curriculum Director, MTDA  
Mike Agostinelli, Instructional Program Director, MTDA  
Christen Cole, Instructional Registrar, MTDA  
Mary Ellen Currie, Budget and Data Manager, MTDA  
Ryan Schrenk, EdReady Program manager, MTDA  
Jason Leonard, EdReady Instructional Registrar, MTDA  
Virg Hale, EdReady Lead Ambassador  
Jodie Hirsch, Instructional Programs Coordinator

**Members & Staff Absent:**

None

**Guests:**

Elizabeth Kaleva  
McCall Flynn

**Call to order:**

Meeting called to order by Chair Graves at 2:30 p.m.

**Approve minutes from May 10, 2021 Meeting:**

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Board Member Muszkiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting.  
Board Member Lawrence seconded the motion. Chair Graves called for approval—unanimously

Board Member Muszkiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting. Board Member Lawrence seconded the motion. Chair Graves called for approval—unanimously approved.

### **Approve Expenditures through May 31, 2021:**

Board Member Muszkiewicz made a motion to approve the expenditure report. Board Member Tessman seconded the motion. Following discussion, Chair Graves called for approval—unanimously approved.

### **Public comment responses submitted**

Chair Graves asked Executive Director Currie to report on the public comment responses that were received. Due to a connectivity issue for the Executive Director, Assistant Director Neiffer stepped in and indicated, as was previously reported in the meeting agenda materials, the public comment period had ended and there were no requests to join the meeting call today to provide comment. The two email comments were shared with the Board as a part of the meeting materials. The Board discussed a wide range of topics related to the aspects and impact of MTDA charging a fee for courses. Board members posed several questions to the MTDA staff and were provided with the information they were seeking.

### **MTDA Plan for Establishing Per Enrollment Fees**

Chair Graves requested a motion to approve the plan for establishing course fees. Board Member Muszkiewicz made the motion and Board member Lapke seconded. The Board then continued the lengthy discussion with each Member contributing their thoughts and ideas.

Several Members made complimentary comments to the MTDA staff for all of their work involved in developing the plan to begin charging fees. Following the discussion on the motion, Executive Director Currie made a recommendation to the Board to include language that would honor the request from Board member Tessman that MTDA exempt dual credit from the charge for this coming school year in deference to the existing MUS Board of Regents 1-2-Free student tuition program and allow for further discussion and consideration during the upcoming year. Board member Muszkiewicz indicated he would accept the recommendation in the form of a friendly amendment and the Board approved the amendment. Chair Graves then stated that we now have the motion with amendment and called for action on the following motion (with approved amendment) “Move that the Board approve the MTDA Governing Board Plan for Establishing Fees (as previously submitted) to begin charging a fee to schools for student course enrollments with the exception that dual credit enrollments will be exempted for this year and schools will not be charged a fee for those enrollments. Chair Graves called for approval-unanimously approved.

**Adjournment:** Chair Graves adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

### **Future Board Meeting Dates for the 2021-2022 School Year:**

**September 13, 2021**

**October 11, 2021**

**November 8, 2021**

**January 10, 2022**

**March 8, 2022**

**April 12, 2022**

**May 10, 2022**

**June 14, 2022**

**(Meeting Time 2:30 - 3:30 PM MST)**





10 Years of Montana Digital Academy!  
2010-2020... and beyond!