

Browning Public Schools
Board Agenda Request
Meeting To Be Held: 5/9/17



Recognition: Students Staff Parents
Information: Building Report Old Business Superintendent's Report
Action: Resignation Hiring Contract Service Agreements
 Travel Out-of-State Travel In State Approvals
 Termination Legal Matters Other:
This action request pertains to Elementary (only) High School/District Wide

Date: 05/3/17

To: **Board of Trustees**
 Browning Public Schools

From: John P. Rouse
Title: Superintendent

Subject: **Approve MQEC Membership**

Description: It is time for our annual renewal of our MQEC membership. Mr. Rouse serves as a member of the MQEC Board of Directors, and he attends the regular monthly meetings on behalf of the school district.

Financial Impact: \$2,500 (Impact Aid funds)

Attachment(s): Letter from MQEC Executive Director

Approval: Superintendent's Office/Finance/Personnel as applicable (Initial) _____

Board Action: N/A (Info) Approved Denied Tabled to: _____



PO Box 993
Helena MT 59624

Fiscal Year 2017 Invoice

Bill To:

Mr. John Rouse
Browning Public Schools
PO Box 610
Browning, MT 59417

Invoice #: 1715
Invoice Date: 4/1/2016
Due Date: 7/1/2016

Date	Description	Amount
4/1/2016	MQEC Membership - Fiscal Year 2017	2,500.00

Thank you for your support.

Total	\$2,500.00
Payments/Credits	\$0.00
Balance Due	\$2,500.00



Montana Quality Education Coalition

April 1, 2016

MQEC is the “Constitutional Guardian” of Article X of the Montana State Constitution, working for public school students and their communities. We advocate for, pursue, and defend the need for adequate funding to provide quality education for each of Montana’s public school students.

Dear John,

On behalf of the MQEC Board of Directors, I invite Browning Public Schools to join us for the 2016-2017 school year. Contributions from school districts statewide help MQEC attain our goal of ensuring that the State of Montana provides ~~adequate funding for students in our public schools and adheres to the public education requirements of the Montana~~ Constitution.

To date, how has MQEC successfully supported Montana’s public schools, including your district? Here are just a few examples:

SB 410 Activity: Passed in the 2015 session, SB410 provides a mechanism for private, non-religious schools to receive proceeds from tax scholarship organizations through a state tax credit. The Department of Revenue has held that private religious schools should *not* receive these funds. Because it threatens to erode public education’s funding, MQEC supports the Department of Revenue’s position. However, two lawsuits are challenging the Department of Revenue’s position. In our role as Constitutional Guardians for Montana’s public school students, MQEC is actively monitoring these lawsuits to ensure compliance with Article X, Section 6, and Article V, Section 11(5) of the Montana Constitution which prohibit aid to sectarian schools and prohibit appropriations to private purposes not under control of the state.

School Funding Interim Commission: Every ten years the Legislature is tasked with review of MCA 20-9-309, which defines the constitutionally-enforceable basic system of free quality schools. MQEC advocates for improvements to the funding formula that specifically address school facilities, teacher recruitment and retention, and special education costs. Prior litigation has established these elements as part of a quality education, and MQEC is intently participating in and providing research-based evidence for the discussions and legislation proposed by the Commission.

Preparation for 2017 Legislative Session: MQEC anticipates continued assaults against public education, particularly the Board of Public Education and local district policy, similar to those we have seen in 2013 and 2015. We also expect persistent efforts to fund charter schools, tax credits, and vouchers with public funds at the expense of funds that would otherwise be committed to our public schools. We will continue to advocate for defending and strengthening the state’s commitment to quality public education in accordance with Article X of the Montana Constitution.

Your membership in MQEC will guarantee your voice is articulated to and heard by legislators. Please contact me if I can answer any questions or provide further information. As schedules permit, I am happy to meet with your Board to further explain MQEC’s mission and membership.

Sincerely,


Dianne M. Burke

Montana Quality Education Coalition | Dianne M. Burke | Executive Director
Post Office Box 993 | Helena, MT 59624 | dburke@mqec.org | 406-449-4594
