



MONTANA
SCHOOL *for the*
Deaf & Blind

giving kids the building blocks to independence

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE
Great Falls, Montana 59405
406.771.6000 V/TTY
406.771.6164 FAX
www.msdb.mt.gov

September 15, 2021

Chair Bedey and members of the Education Interim Budget Committee,

At the end of the past fiscal year, The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind had a significant amount of personnel services funding left over. Throughout the course of the school year, August 2020 through June 2021, the school had eleven positions open that were not filled. As a school we actively recruited qualified individuals to apply but as a result of COVID, we received little to no applications for most open positions.

However, ten of the eleven positions have been filled for the start of this school year. Those positions include:

- 5 Residential Life Advisor positions for our Cottage Program
- 2 Teacher of the Deaf positions
- 2 Interpreter positions
- 1 Visually Impaired PreSchool position

We have yet to fill the open school psychologist position at this time. We are still actively recruiting for a school psychologist, as well as Great Falls Public Schools and the local special education coop. It is difficult to compete with these two other educational institutions as our open position will require an individual that is proficient with sign language.

In addition to the open school psychologist position, we have four other positions open currently. These positions have just opened since July 1, 2021. We know that we have applications for the ASL Mentor Position and Orientation and Mobility Specialist positions. Our Part-Time Interpreter position and Cottage Custodian positions were just opened in the last two weeks and we plan to fill.

In summary, The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind will continue to recruit qualified staff to work with our population. This year we hired staff from Florida, California, and Alaska to help fill our positions. With our student population, we have found that recruiting at the national level is what needs to be done.

If any member of the committee has questions, please contact me at any time. Thank you for your support of MSDB.

In Mustang Spirit,

Paul Furthmyre, Interim Superintendent