



**Minutes
State Board of Education
September 15, 2011**

Rosie Hussey
President
Clear Lake

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
Vice President
Des Moines

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick
West Des Moines

Eric Goranson
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler
Council Bluffs

Valorie J. Kruse
Sioux City

Ana Lopez
Pella

Max Phillips
Woodward

LaMetta Wynn
Clinton

Brandon Bolte
Student Member
Ankeny

Jason E. Glass
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Rosie Hussey, Charlie Edwards, Max Phillips, Valorie Kruse, Eric Goranson, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, and Brandon Bolte. Deputy Director Kevin Fangman and Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members Gail Sullivan, Carol Greta, Staci Hupp, Del Hoover, Sharon Hawthorne, Kris Crabtree-Groff, Connie Maxson, Tom Schenk, Gwen Nagel, Angi Hillers, and Jody Crane were in attendance. Also in attendance were Frank Hilton; Mike Wisner, Lee Enterprises; Lynn Campbell, IowaPolitics.com; Darwin Danielson, Radio Iowa; David Epley, House Democratic Caucus; Lane Plugge and David Van Horn, Green Hills Area Education Agency (AEA); Bob Vittengl (retired) (via Polycom), Sue Daker (via Polycom), Gary Stumberg (via Polycom), and Doug Penno, (via Polycom), Keystone AEA; Brian L. Baker, Connections Academy; Bryan Bauer and Tiffany DeJager, Iowa Public Television/Iowa Learning Online; Nancy Movall, Edtec American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-AEA/Iowa Learning Online (ILO); Jen Sigrist, Van Meter Schools; and Randy Richardson, Iowa State Education Association.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

State Board President Rosie Hussey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

It was moved by Valorie Kruse and seconded by Charlie Edwards that the September agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

Deputy Director Kevin Fangman reported that:

- The Education Reform Blueprint will be released on October 3.
- It is anticipated that the No Child Left Behind guidelines for waivers will be released this month.
- The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is in the development phase. Two Department staff members will be assigned to work groups. It is scheduled to be piloted in 2014 and Iowa is interested in having districts pilot.
- The Department plans to apply for the Early Learning Challenge Grant (Race to the Top Competition for Early Childhood). The Department has been designated as the lead agency and will be partnering with the Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, and Early Childhood Iowa. The grant focuses on comprehensive early childhood, quality, and having children ready to learn when they enter the door at kindergarten. The maximum amount to be awarded is \$50 million to spend over a four year period.

CONSENT AGENDA

Max Phillips moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Rules: Chapter 22 – Senior Year Plus Program (Notice)

Carol Greta, Attorney, Office of the Director, indicated that the Chapter 22 rules conform to legislation that was passed. Item 1 increases the means by which a home schooled student can be deemed to be proficient to take advantage of Senior Year Plus programming.

Items 2 and 3 deal with regional academies. In Iowa, there are three regional academies - Des Moines, Woodbine and Jefferson Scranton. In the past, the regional academies were for grades 9-12. They have now been expanded to grades 7-12. In addition to partnering with other school districts, the partners have been expanded to include postsecondary institutions, AEAs, and private business.

Motion: Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and Eric Goranson seconded approval to give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 22.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Chapter 98 – Financial Management of Categorical Funding (Notice)

Carol Greta, Attorney, Office of the Director, indicated that the Chapter 98 rules conform to legislation that was passed. The funding to home school assistance programs was changed to clarify appropriate and inappropriate uses. Previously, the language said that the teacher hired by the school district was to assist the parent in being the instructor. Now the teacher hired by the district can be the instructor to children who receive competent private instruction.

The other change in law was to the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL). The legislation struck the word “unit.” PPEL can still be used to make technology and equipment purchases if there is a value of \$500 per purchase (not per unit). In addition, equipment and maintenance were defined.

Motion: Valorie Kruse moved and Charlie Edwards seconded approval to give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 98.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Grand Canyon University Online Practitioner Preparation Programs

Kris Crabtree-Groff, Consultant, Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services, reviewed the process for approving online, out of state practitioner preparation programs.

There was board discussion regarding why a college would choose not to go through this process in Iowa and how other states are applying the new federal law.

Grand Canyon University is requesting approval from the State Board to offer the following practitioner preparation programs: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education/Special Education (Cross Categorical, Dual Major), Master of Education in Elementary Education, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Master of Education in Secondary Education, Master of Education in Special Education, and Master of Education in Educational Administration (Principal). The institution is housed in Phoenix, Arizona, and is currently registered with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

Crabtree-Groff described the evidence that the university has provided to the Department in fulfillment of the five requirements. She indicated that the Department recommends Grand Canyon University for State Board approval to enroll Iowa residents into online practitioner preparation programs. Approval allows Grand Canyon University to offer these programs under its registration with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

Motion: Max Phillips moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick approved the enrollment of Iowa residents in online practitioner preparation programs offered by Grand Canyon University.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about whether any of Iowa's universities offer online classes, and if those institutions recognize that some of Iowa's population is going elsewhere for online offerings that they could possibly be offering.

Appeal Decision – Waterloo Dress Code

Carol Greta, Attorney, Office of the Director, indicated that the first dress code that was approved by the Waterloo board was written in prescriptive terms and the new policy is written correctly in proscriptive terms. The Waterloo district and board complied with the Iowa Code section 279.58 in turning it around and writing it in proscriptive terms. However, to save it from being an exercise in semantics, the Waterloo district also added evidence that this was needed for the safety of students.

Greta shared the dress code and the procedural history with the Board.

Greta stated that when a local board reads and honors the statute, then the State Board does not have the statutory authority to second guess them. They have done their research and provided a plethora of evidence at the hearing regarding the necessity of adopting a district-wide standardized dress code.

Motion: Max Phillips moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick made a motion to approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the local board of directors of the Waterloo Community School District to adopt a district-wide standardized dress code.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Area Education Agency Accreditation (Keystone AEA and Green Hills AEA)

Sharon Hawthorne, Bureau of Student and Family Support Services Consultant and Co-leader of the AEA Site Team visit, introduced Keystone AEA staff members Bob Vittengl (retired), Sue Daker, Gary Stumberg, and Doug Penno who joined the meeting via Polycom. She also introduced Green Hills AEA staff members Lane Plugge and David VanHorn.

Hawthorne reported that the AEA accreditation visits are based on the eight standards that are outlined in 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 72. The Bureau of Student and Family Support Services is continuing efforts to further integrate special education monitoring into the AEA accreditation site visits.

Hawthorne described the AEA accreditation review process. It consists of a meeting over the ICN which includes an overview of the process, an overview by the agency, and team training for the document review (which is completed off site); three onsite interview days with debriefing and processing time, and two onsite wrap-up days.

There was discussion regarding how the Green Hills AEA merger was progressing.

Hawthorne reviewed the strengths for both agencies indicating that media and technology services continue to be a strength as well as the dedication and quality of staff. A suggestion for improvement was in the area of communication.

Hawthorne provided a synopsis of each agency's report by reviewing highlights, concerns, and the Department's recommendations to address those concerns.

All AEAs are required to complete a web application for the AEA Annual Progress Report which is due April 1. Keystone AEA and Green Hills AEA will be required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan which is due February 1, 2012. In addition, the 2011-2012 customer survey will be released in the spring.

Hawthorne said that during the upcoming year, accreditation visits are scheduled at Grant Wood AEA and Northwest AEA. She reported on activities for the upcoming year that will further integrate special education in the AEA accreditation process. Specifically, she and other team members will be interviewing special education teachers in the districts to see what kind of support they are receiving from the AEA. There will also be an interview with the support staff that serves those districts during the accreditation visit.

Hawthorne stated that based on the results of the findings and the additional findings included in the accreditation summary reports, it is recommended that both agencies be granted full accreditation status.

There was discussion regarding what Green Hills AEA is doing to narrow the achievement gap, if there are any anticipated school district merger activity/consolidation plans and if there are any tools that should be on the table to enable that process that the State Board or others could champion, and if AEA mergers are realizing any financial benefit.

Keystone AEA and Green Hills AEA staff responded to a question regarding how the Iowa Core is being rolled out through their agencies and how it is working. Each agency also responded to a question regarding how No Child Left Behind waivers may impact the way things are currently being done.

Keystone AEA staff commented on what they are doing to narrow the achievement gap. They also stated that they appreciated the comments that were included in the accreditation report and as a result have made dramatic changes.

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Eric Goranson to approve the recommendations for AEA accreditation submitted by the Director and grant continued accreditation for Keystone AEA.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Eric Goranson to approve the recommendations for AEA accreditation submitted by the Director and grant continued accreditation for Green Hills AEA.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

2011-2012 Academic Year, Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report

Tom Schenk, Jr., Educational Program Consultant, Bureau of Adult, Career, and Community College Education, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the highlights from the Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report. He reminded the Board that this report reflects tuition and fees of the current academic year.

Information presented included:

- Average Tuition and Variability
- Changes in Tuition and Fees
- National Comparisons
- Regional Comparisons
- Comparisons to Public Universities

There was discussion about whether the statute has changed on what can fit in the parameters of fees.

Board Reports

Max Phillips attended a meeting with the community college presidents. Topics of discussion included what would be a better and more effective use of the Community College Council and also the future vision for community colleges. Another meeting will be scheduled to continue this discussion.

Brandon Bolte plans to participate on a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) webinar along with Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

Valorie Kruse attended a meeting with the School Administrators of Iowa executive committee. She distributed a handout titled "NASBE Discussion Guide - School Leadership Improving State Systems for Leader Development." This group is interested in having another meeting.

There was discussion regarding the lack of appreciation of the Wallace work that has been done on behalf of the Department.

Rosie Hussey provided a welcome to the Mason City Community School District administrators and teachers. She sensed frustration and encouraged teachers and administrators to be involved and to have a voice. She indicated to the group that the Board does not support the notion that nothing has happened in education in Iowa since 1992.

Hussey indicated that meetings will continue with the education organizations. These are more meaningful dialogue than some of the other approaches that the Board has tried. She appreciates the Board's participation in these meetings.

Hussey reported that the State Board self-evaluation has been updated and will be sent to Board members for them to complete. The results of the survey will be the basis for some Board development throughout the year and possibly at the retreat.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick had no report.

Eric Goranson had no report.

Charlie Edwards had no report.

State Board Policy Development Priorities and Master Calendar

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director, reported that at the State Board retreat in June, the Board decided to continue with the same three policy priority development areas that the Board had been studying for the past year. Those areas are: Competency-based Education, Online Learning and Other Technological Advances to Support 21st Century Learning, and Reducing the Achievement Gap.

Sullivan reviewed the process for developing a plan to address issues at Board meetings. She also walked the Board through a document titled "Policy Development Priorities/Leadership Agenda 2011-2012 Plan of Study and Action" which outlines the plans to address the issues throughout the coming year. Board members suggested additional topics to be added to this document.

Sullivan mentioned that the policy discussions and actions described in the "Policy Development Priorities/Leadership Agenda 2011-2012 Plan of Study and Action" document are mapped out on the State Board Master Calendar and form the basis for State Board meeting agendas for the coming year.

Online Learning

State Board member Eric Goranson stated that one of the State Board's priorities is Online Learning. The Board instructed the Department of Education and Iowa Learning Online (ILO) to:

- 1) study other state virtual schools and return to the State Board with recommendations on scaling up ILO to a capacity that would allow quality online

course access to all students wishing to participate in either a supplementary or a full-time capacity, and

- 2) study other state virtual learning portals and return to the State Board with recommendations for a PK-20 portal of Iowa online learning opportunities.

Goranson had an opportunity to participate in a few meetings along with Bryan Setser, former Chief Executive Officer of the North Carolina Virtual Public Schools. Setser served as consultant and facilitated the discussions. Goranson commended Kevin Fangman, Gwen Nagel, and the rest of the Department staff, Iowa Public Television staff, and ILO Planning Group members for doing a great job.

Gwen Nagel, Consultant, Iowa Learning Online, Division of Learning and Results, introduced the ILO Planning Group members that were in attendance and recognized members that were not able to attend the meeting.

Nagel, Jen Sigrist, Director of Teaching and Learning, Van Meter Community School District, and Nancy Movall, Grant Manager, AEA/Urban Education Network American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant, reviewed a PowerPoint representing the ILO Planning Group's work regarding plans for scaling up ILO. Information included:

- Landscape of National Statistics
- ILO Background
- Scaling Model
- Governance Recommendations
- Access and Equity Recommendations
- Curriculum Recommendations
- Delivery and Pacing Options
- Recommendations for Course Quality and Policies
- Teacher Recommendations
- Student Recommendations
- Administrative and Technical Systems Recommendations
- Funding Recommendations
- Staffing Recommendations
- Budget Recommendations
- Timeline
- Legislative Recommendations Recap
- Recommendations for Exploration of Options and Implications

There was discussion regarding the low percentage of students projected to be served and what could be done to increase that number, expanding to immediately serve all grade levels K-12, the need to figure out the mix of state and tuition funding, the number of Regent institutions that offer an online teaching certification, concern with elementary early childhood missing from the plan, the student teacher ratio, how hands on activities are accounted for in online classes, if colleges look down on students who take higher level courses in high school rather than college, and next steps.

A Board member commented that he would advocate for the ILO Planning Group to be the foundation of this work with the addition of private stakeholders and parents.

Nagel and Bryan Bauer, Instructional Designer/Manager, New Media and Education, Iowa Public Television, continued with the PowerPoint and presented information on the PK-20 Portal of Online Learning Resources and Opportunities. Information included:

- Primary Recommendation
- Elements
- General Recommendations
- Budget Estimate

Rosie Hussey thanked the work group and indicated that the information will be forwarded to Director Jason Glass.

Response to Intervention Implementation

Kevin Fangman, Deputy Director, and Connie Maxson, Chief, Bureau of Teaching and Learning Services, presented on targets of data indicators for Response to Intervention (Rtl).

Maxson reviewed a document titled “Monitoring Implementation and Effect of Response to Intervention 2010-11 Data.” This document contains information on data that is currently gathered in the following areas:

- 1) Students Entering Kindergarten Ready to Learn
- 2) Going Through School in Safe Environment
- 3) Implementing Rtl Components
- 4) General Academic Performance

Maxson explained how the Rtl process works.

Fangman reported that professional learning titled “Investigating the Iowa Core Standards” was currently taking place. The Department has purchased this training through the state of Wisconsin. He reported that because of the Common Core standards, Iowa is able to purchase materials and resources that are being developed in other states and modify them.

There was discussion about whether Wisconsin’s data set is the same as Iowa’s, and if there is any opposition to Rtl.

Rosie Hussey requested that the Board be kept informed on this initiative.

Competency-based Education

Kevin Fangman, Deputy Director, distributed a document titled “Iowa Department of Education Competency-based Pathways Timeline.” He gave an update on the timeline and reviewed the efforts planned to support the competency-based system in Iowa. A

“Research to Action” Competency-based Pathways Institute will be held on December 8-9, 2011.

Fangman indicated that the current thought in moving this initiative forward is to show districts what flexibility is available if they want to move toward this system. The Department also needs to dialogue more with higher education. Conversations in the Department have centered on showing schools the flexibility available to them and being responsive to the issues and barriers that are identified. The hope is to connect innovators and share the practices going on in schools so other districts and schools can learn from the early adopters.

Fangman reported that after November 2011 there are tentative plans to reconvene the Competency-based Education Design Team to reassess this work.

There was discussion regarding who will be invited to the “Research to Action” Competency-based Pathways Institute and how the finances will be impacted.

Rosie Hussey adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Rosie Hussey
President

Kevin Fangman
Deputy Director, Director Pro Tem