

Nonpublic School Advisory Committee Minutes

October 8, 2013

Grimes State Office Building – Room B100

1:00 p.m.

Present – Jerry Deegan, Lee Morrison, Jeff Henderson, Dave Tilly, Jobi Lawrence, Nicole Proesch, Luvern Guebbels, Eric Goranson, Tom Chapman, Ryan Wise, Wayne Dykstra, Tom Deeter, Geri McMahon, Julie Delaney, Paul Kaperna, Dan Ryan.

Dr. Brad Buck, the new Director of the Department of Education, presented what he has been working on to understand Iowa education program. He then presented his vision for Iowa education programming. His emphasis has been work on the core, teacher compensation and leadership and ??? He believes all students are educated well.

Ryan Wise reviewed Teacher Leadership and Compensation. This year is a planning year to develop a local planning process. It is an option for districts and does not include accredited nonpublic schools. If the local school district decides to proceed it will need to submit a plan by January 31, 2014. Implementation will begin in the fall of 2014. Information about the program can be found on the DE website under “Teacher Leadership.” Accredited nonpublic schools are free to use the materials but do not qualify for the funding. Webinars are available. There is a separate “council” to review teacher evaluation.

Ryan Wise and Nicole Proesch reviewed the **Alternate Accreditation** proposed rules, which would go into effect on November 20, 2013. Guidance is being put together. There were several questions as to the process the DE is creating.

Nicole Proesch reviewed Rules on Hours vs. Days. These rules now include accredited nonpublic schools. The days rules now are now detailed as to what it includes and does not include. So, now emergencies (snow, fog etc.) are not allowed to count as days unless there are at least six hours of instruction. This makes the days option extremely difficult. The legislation requires this change. Nonpublic schools do not have an option of the waiver as written as an oversight in the legislation. The DE is going to work to get that language change in the upcoming legislative session. Guidance will be forthcoming.

Nicole Proesch reviewed the new **Homeschool Provisions.** There are now options available for those who choose homeschool. The DE is still working through the rules to address the changes.

Legislative Priorities have been worked on as explained by Dave Tilly. While nothing has been finalized, there are some items being discussed. Focus will likely be on early literacy as the primary top priority and support for teacher training and early identification tools.

Safety Drills – Schools Inspections have been confusing. The state law requires four drills each for tornado and fire drills. Local ordinances may add to that, which is permissible.

Dan Ryan reviewed the **Friedman Foundation Survey** completed this summer concerning public perspectives on school choice. The summary document was reviewed.

Job Lawrence reviewed ELL and LAU Plan. She handed out the template for the development of a plan for 2014-2015. The floor was opened up for questions. This is not new based upon on federal rules. All schools are expected to have a plan. It is permissible to work with the local public school and the AEA consultants.

Geri McMahon reviewed aspects of the **Title 1 program.** She started with how allocations are determined based on poverty rates. Once a nonpublic Title I allocation is determined, the district and local accredited nonpublic do not need to follow the same criteria for determining who gets Title I help, provided the established guidelines are followed. If the local parochial school enrolls students from an adjoining public district and if those students who live in the adjoining district reside in a public school area that receives Title I services then that child could be eligible for services even though they attend an accredited nonpublic school not located within the boundaries of his/her public school residence. In short, eligible Title I private school students must meet the eligibility criteria as most at risk of failing and must reside in a Title I serve attendance center school.

Tom Deeter led the **Smarter Balanced Update.** He explained the assessment review being conducted by the DE. Currently, accredited nonpublic schools are not currently included in the test sites for the assessment. Moving forward there is discussion about how to include accredited nonpublic is underway. The DE is committed to including the accredited nonpublic school if Smarter Balanced is adopted.

Dave Tilly presented C4K Update. Participation continues to grow. It started with 10% of the schools and is growing. There are several accredited nonpublic schools involved in the process. The DE has been working to assist with the purchase of assessments and materials. The goal will be to continue to scale the program up moving forward.

Future Meeting Dates:

December 10, 2013 – Grimes State Office Building, B100

February 11, 2014 – Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room

May 13, 2014 – Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room