



**Minutes
State Board of Education
Retreat/Meeting
June 12-13, 2014**

- Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President
Des Moines
- Michael L. Knedler
Vice President
Council Bluffs
- Brooke Axiotis
Des Moines
- Michael Bearden
Gladbrook
- Diane Crookham-Johnson
Oskaloosa
- Angela English
Dyersville
- Rosie Hussey
Clear Lake
- Mike May
Spirit Lake
- Mary Ellen Miller
Mason City and Wayne County
- Hannah Rens
Student Member
Sioux City
- Brad A. Buck
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education retreat/meeting was held on Thursday, June 12, and Friday, June 13, 2014, at the Des Moines Area Community College. The following State Board of Education members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Rosie Hussey, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Mike May, Mike Bearden, Angela English, Brooke Axiotis, Mary Ellen Miller, and Hannah Rens. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Brad Buck, Ryan Wise, Nicole Proesch, Lea Davidson, Jeff Berger, Staci Hupp, Phil Wise, Jeremy Varner, Amy Williamson, Sarah Brown, Dave Tilly, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: D.T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; Joen Larson, Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; Jodi Grover; John Parker, Legislative Services Agency; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus; and MJ Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

Welcome - Goals of the Retreat

Charlie Edwards welcomed State Board of Education (Board) members and talked about the goals and objectives of the retreat.

Focusing on Instructional Improvement

Brad Buck, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), shared comments and discussed work that has been done to bring alignment and coherence to Iowa's education system.

Ryan Wise, Deputy Director, talked about the purpose, format, and outcomes of the retreat.

Board members discussed what motivated them to join the Board and what they are looking forward to most in the upcoming year.

The *"Big Rocks" of Life* video by Stephen Covey was shown and there was discussion regarding how it relates to the Board and Department.

Ryan Wise provided an overview of a presentation developed by Andreas Schleicher, Deputy Director for Education and Skills and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Secretary General. He talked in detail about the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Board members worked with a partner and discussed what was presented.

Board members also worked with a partner and reviewed one of the current Board priorities. The groups shared their take away of each and discussed how well these priorities align with what effective systems do. The current priorities are:

- Competency-based Education
- Online Learning and Other Technological Advances
- Reducing Achievement Gaps
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation
- Assessment

Department of Education Priorities

Ryan Wise distributed a handout that outlined each of the Department's priorities. It described the priorities, the major components, and current work being done. Board members worked in groups and reviewed one of the priorities and discussed how each priority aligns with other high performing systems. Each work group reported its findings. The Department's priorities are:

- Iowa Core
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- Early Literacy Progression
- Teacher Leadership

State Board Priority Setting

Ryan Wise distributed a State Board Prioritization Worksheet and facilitated the priority selection process. Board members compared possible priorities individually and then worked in small groups. Each work group shared their responses and rationale for the priorities they selected.

The following five priorities were identified:

- Competency-based Education
- Reducing Achievement Gaps (with a focus on Multi-tiered System of Supports and Early Literacy)
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation
- Assessment
- Iowa Core

Charlie Edwards adjourned the retreat for the day at 4:50 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

It was moved by Mike Knedler and seconded by Mike Bearden that the June agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

Brad Buck provided an update on Teacher Leadership and Compensation, the Early Literacy Initiative, the Assessment Task Force, educator effectiveness, and the status of legislative action.

There was discussion regarding the status of the science standards.

Legislative Update

Phil Wise, Policy Advisor, Division of Policy and Communications, provided an update on key education outcomes of the 2014 legislative session. The following items have been signed into law:

- Early Warning Assessment System to Monitor Literacy Skills Pre-K through Grade Six
- Area Education Agencies Support for the Teacher Leadership and Compensation System
- Successful Progression for Early Readers
- English Language Learners Literacy Pilot Program
- Administrator Quality Program
- Prohibition of Sexual Exploitation by a School Employee

There was discussion regarding future funding needed for the Successful Progression for Early Readers legislation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Rosie Hussey made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Chapter 27 – Workforce Training and Economic Development Funds (Notice)

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, explained that the proposed Chapter 27 rules are a new chapter in the Iowa Administrative Code. This chapter establishes a workforce training and economic development program to provide revenue for each community college to address the workforce development needs of the state with the primary focus of providing training and retraining of Iowa workers to develop the employee skills needed in targeted industries or to address a workforce development need of a targeted industry.

With the passage of House File 604, the responsibility for administration and oversight of the workforce training and economic development fund was transferred from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to the Department. Varner described programs that are included in the fund and what the money can be used for. He also explained the reason why this transfer occurred and indicated that the Department is in a better position to administer the funds.

Varner reported that in September 2013, a report titled *Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund FY2014-2015* was presented to the Board for approval. He indicated that reporting procedures have been improved and refined and a guidebook has been developed to help community colleges understand how the funds can be used.

Varner said that the Department and Community College Council recommended that the Board approve the proposed Notice of Intended Action with two changes. The changes are to use the term “targeted areas” consistently throughout the rules and to change language in 27.5(2) by placing a period after the words “Chapter 7” and striking the remainder of the sentence.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to adopt a new Chapter 27 of Iowa Administrative Code with the amended changes.

There was discussion regarding the \$15.3 million annual appropriation, whether this was an opportunity or a requirement for community colleges, and how the funds are distributed.

MJ Dolan, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees, responded to a question regarding funding and the programs included in the fund.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

State Board Committee Assignments

Ryan Wise indicated a representative was needed to serve on the Iowa Coordinating Council on Post High School Education. Rosie Hussey agreed to serve.

The Board business meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

State Board OF EDUCATION RETREAT (continued)

Finalizing Board Priorities and Indicators of Progress

Board members worked in groups and discussed the goals, indicators of progress, and support activities for each of the priorities. Charlie Edwards requested that Board members stay connected to one of the priority areas throughout the year.

Work Groups

- Competency-based Education – Rosie Hussey, Mike Bearden, Angela English
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation - Rosie Hussey, Mike Bearden, Angela English
- Reducing Achievement Gaps (with a focus on Multi-tiered System of Supports and Early Literacy) – Mike May and Brooke Axiotis
- Assessment – Charlie Edwards and Mary Ellen Miller
- Iowa Core – Hannah Rens, Mike Knedler, Brad Buck

There was discussion regarding including technology into each of the priority areas.

Using Data and Reports to Inform Advocacy and Rule-Making

Ryan Wise talked about a plan to inform the Board of the connection between data they receive and how it aligns to the Board's priorities.

Development of State Board Meeting Agendas and Master Calendar

Ryan Wise explained the process used to develop Board meeting agendas and the master calendar.

There was further discussion about Board members staying connected to a specific priority and their involvement at Board meetings when that topic is being discussed.

State Board Meeting Dates for 2015

Ryan Wise presented the 2015 meeting dates and the Board discussed the possibility of meeting at different locations around the state in March and September 2015.

Closing Remarks

Charlie Edwards provided closing remarks. He thanked Board members and Department staff for their work.

The retreat adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President

Brad A. Buck
Director