



Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 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 meeting was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, in the Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mike Bearden, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Brooke Axiotis, Mary Ellen Miller, Angela English, Hannah Rens, and Rosie Hussey (via telephone). Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Brad Buck, Ryan Wise, Staci Hupp, Kelley Rice, Shan Seivert, Nicole Proesch, Kent Farver, David Tilly, Phil Wise, Sandra Dop, Mary Delagardelle, Thomas Mayes, Jeremy Varner, Jeff Berger, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: D.T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; M.J. Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Bridget Godes, Senate Democratic Caucus; Jodi Grover; Kim Carson, Pearson; Debra Fitzgerald, ACT; Frank Hilton; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus; T.J. Jumper, Todd Godfrey, and Ashley Flatebo, Mason City Community School District; Justin Gross, Heather Ludwig, Chris Schmidt, and Katie Borton, Nevada Community School District; Jennifer Gertson, Rachel Gotto, LeAnn Sokolik, and Janice Pavlicek, Pleasant Valley Community School District; Robert Davis, Michelle Dirks, Kim Dunbar, Jennifer Hellman, and Belen Warnemunde, West Des Moines Community School District; Dana Deines, Erin Gardner, Jennifer Juhl, Andy Pattee, and Dan Conrad, Cedar Falls Community School District; Christi Lines, Ed Klamfoth, Cheryl Elsbury Reiher, Bridgette Wagoner, and Sally Kittleson, Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District; Jeff Kirby, Justin White, Cherrill Oxenford, Lori Elliott, and Ellie Arseneault, Grinnell-Newburg Community School District.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION

Ryan Wise, Deputy Director, and Staci Hupp, Chief, Bureau of Communications and Information Services, led the State Board of Education (Board) through a work session on communication and advocacy.

Hupp described her past work experience, the definition of communication and advocacy, the importance of effective communication, the components of communication, working with the media, the importance of identifying goals, the significance of knowing your audience, conveying and delivering messages, communication activities, and lobbying methods.

Board members discussed communication strategies.

Board members also worked in groups and discussed their priorities and goals within each of the priorities. Specifically, they talked about what they wanted to accomplish and key messages around each of the goals.

There was discussion regarding the need for the Board to determine its role and direction moving forward.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Ryan Wise reported a change to the November State Board agenda. Notice of the Chapter 21 rules was moved to the January 22, 2015, State Board meeting.

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

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

Brad Buck, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), provided an update on the Council on Educator Development. The council was established to study and make recommendations for a new statewide teacher evaluation system and a new statewide administrator evaluation system. The goal of the study is to determine the efficacy of the current systems in providing practitioners with clear and actionable feedback to enhance their practice and advance student learning. The council is reviewing the current teacher and administrator evaluation systems, the Iowa Teaching Standards, and the Iowa Standards for School Administrators, as well as other related components.

Buck talked about the council's meeting schedule, membership, work that been done, and presenters (national and local). The initial report is due October 1, 2015. That report will be available to school districts to provide feedback and the final report is due to the Legislature by November 15, 2016.

Buck indicated that once the report is presented to the Legislature, it will be determined if changes to the Code of Iowa are needed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Rules: Chapter 25 – Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program (Notice)

Phil Wise, Policy Advisor, Division of Policy and Communications, and Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, presented the Chapter 25 rules. These rules incorporate changes to the Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program and the Gap Tuition Assistance Program included in House File 604, passed by the 2013 General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Changes associated with House File 604 include the addition of pathway navigators and regional industry sector partnerships, increasing the federal poverty level benchmark from 200 percent to 250 percent under target populations and applicants for tuition assistance, and the addition of staff support services under eligible costs. Changes not directly associated with House File 604 include the renumbering and reformatting of subrules.

Farver indicated that the Community College Council recommended the rules for Notice of Intended Action.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 25.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about whether the Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program and the Gap Tuition Assistance Programs are tied to obtaining a degree, and outreach efforts.

In re Open Enrollment of S.H. (Ankeny Community School District)

Nicole Proesch, designated Administrative Law Judge, Office of the Director, and Thomas Mayes, Attorney, Division of Learning and Results, presented *In re Open Enrollment of S.H. (Ankeny Community School District)*.

Proesch indicated that the issues with this case were regarding whether or not the local school board appropriately applied the correct legal standard to an open enrollment application that alleged a serious health condition existed. After reviewing the record and

facts of the case, it was clear that the board did not apply the appropriate legal standard. Therefore, the recommendation was that the case be remanded back to the Ankeny Community School District board to apply the appropriate standard to the facts and circumstances of this case.

There was discussion regarding where the student is currently attending school and next steps.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision reversing the decision of the local board of directors of the Ankeny Community School District and remanding the case back to the district to decide the case by applying the appropriate legal standards.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Assessment

David Tilly, Deputy Director, provided an update on education assessment in the state. He reported that the Assessment Task Force will recommend that Iowa lawmakers adopt the Smarter Balanced assessments as Iowa's new state test for public and accredited nonpublic schools starting with the 2016-2017 school year.

Tilly talked about the charge to the legislatively mandated Assessment Task Force and the process used in selecting the Smarter Balanced assessments. The task force voted 20-1 in favor of recommending the Smarter Balanced assessments as the next state assessment. There was discussion regarding the opposing vote.

Tilly shared information regarding technology concerns and issues with moving to an online assessment, a self-assessment survey that was previously conducted with school districts looking at bandwidth capabilities and technological readiness, next steps to determine school districts' ability to access these assessments, transition options, and challenges.

Tilly talked about the next meeting of the Assessment Task Force where work will be done on the draft version of the report to the Legislature that is due January 1, 2015.

There was discussion about whether there was opposition to the recommendations, the need to collaborate with stakeholders and the business community to build support, the Board's role in soliciting support for the recommendations, and the importance of messaging the benefits and that this will not put more requirements on certain groups (home schooling), and next steps.

There was further discussion regarding the Smarter Balanced Consortium and whether the assessments are tailored to Iowa.

The Board's proposed recommendations to the Legislature were reviewed and discussed. The Board will vote on the recommendations at the January 2015 Board meeting and will be presented to the Legislature.

Board Reports

Mike May and Hannah Rens attended a Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) listening tour in Sioux City. May emphasized how impressed he was with what's been done in the Sioux City area with TLC. He encouraged other Board members to attend a TLC listening tour.

Diane Crookham-Johnson stated that efforts of teachers and administrators should not be overlooked when it comes to student safety.

Mary Ellen Miller attended a TLC listening tour in Mount Pleasant where she observed everybody being engaged in the process. She has also attended Assessment Task Force meetings.

Rosie Hussey participated in a Common Core conversation with KIMT Mason City television station. She has also talked to teachers and principals about the Common Core and competency-based education.

Mike Knedler plans to attend a TLC listening tour in Council Bluffs. He also talked about efforts of a group that do not support the Common Core.

Hannah Rens reported that she has a bill that will be presented to the Iowa Legislature during the 2015 session. She's excited to see how Smarter Balanced plays out.

Angela English attended a TLC listening tour in Hudson.

Mike Bearden plans to attend the Iowa Association of School Boards Convention.

Breaking Barriers to Teaching and Learning Awards Presentation and Luncheon

Charlie Edwards and Brad Buck provided comments and presented the Breaking Barriers to Teaching and Learning Awards. Each year, the award recognizes successful efforts to eliminate gaps in achievement among students. This year's award winners were recognized for having the highest proficiency rates statewide in math and reading among a specific subgroup of students, such as students who do not speak English as their native language and students from low-income backgrounds. State assessment data from five years were examined to confirm a positive trend for each school.

The school awardees are:

- Cedar Falls High School, Cedar Falls Community School District: Recognized for its work with African American students. A full 78 percent of the school's African

American students are proficient in math and reading, compared to a statewide average of only 52 percent.

- Davis Elementary School, Grinnell-Newburg Community School District: Recognized for its work with students on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The proficiency rate for Davis Elementary students on IEPs is 82 percent in reading and math. That compares to a statewide average of 43 percent.
- Hillside Elementary School, West Des Moines Community School District: Recognized for its work with English language learners (ELL). The proficiency rate for Hillside's ELL students is 70 percent in reading and math. That compares to a statewide average of 49 percent for the same group of students.
- Riverdale Heights Elementary School, Pleasant Valley Community School District: Honored for its work with Latino students. Ninety-eight percent of Latino students are proficient in reading and math, compared to the statewide average of 62 percent.
- Southeast Elementary School, Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District: Recognized for its work with students who come from low-income families. With a third of the school's student population qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches, 98 percent of those children are proficient in reading and math. The statewide average is 65 percent.

Interviews with school principals revealed a common thread between the honored schools: the use of evidence-based practices, a staff-wide commitment, high expectations and substantial teacher collaboration.

Competency-based Education District Reports

Sandra Dop, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, introduced Justin Gross, Heather Ludwig, Chris Schmidt, and Katie Borton of the Nevada Community School District (CSD); and T.J. Jumper, Todd Godfrey, and Ashley Flatebo of the Mason City CSD. The Nevada and Mason City CSDs are part of the Competency-based Education (CBE) Collaborative along with eight other districts.

Nevada Community School District representatives discussed their experience with CBE, characteristics of CBE systems, action planning, and internal and external stakeholder engagement. They also shared what they learned while visiting the Taylor County School District in Kentucky. Taylor County has been involved with self-based learning for six years. The following topics were discussed: multiple pathways for students, self-paced learning options, student enterprises, blended/flipped instruction, project-based learning, and student leadership opportunities.

Nevada staff shared information about a meeting they attended at Buena Vista University where a charter school from Nashville, Tennessee, was featured. They reported on what

they learned about student choice, intern and project-based learning, student portfolios, demonstration of learning, and increased student engagement through hands-on learning.

Nevada school staff discussed their action plan moving forward, and policies and procedures to support CBE systems.

Dop explained a diagram titled *Iowa Framework for Implementation of Competency-based Education*, which is under development, and talked about the definitions of competency, proficiency, personalized learning, and blended learning.

Mason City School District representatives shared information about the process used in writing CBE competencies. They discussed enduring understandings, competencies, universal constructs, standards, learning progressions, and scoring guides/rubrics. They also addressed district decisions and considerations, and how CBE is being incorporated into classrooms.

There was discussion regarding what the Board could do to promote CBE with other districts, parents, and teachers; how students, who have experienced CBE, adapt if they return to a traditional system later, and what an employer can expect from a student who is educated using the CBE approach rather than in the traditional setting.

State Board Legislative Agenda

Board members reviewed and discussed the content and format of their 2014 legislative agenda. It was decided that an annual advocacy brochure would be developed that could be used year round. Department staff will present a draft to the Board at the January 2015 meeting.

Update and Overview of the Work of the Iowa Reading Research Center (Reducing Achievement Gaps)

David Tilly and Michelle Hosp, Director, Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC), provided an update on the work of the Iowa Reading Research Center.

Tilly talked about the collaborative and coordinated efforts underway to deal with literacy issues in Iowa. Over 90 percent of Iowa's public elementary schools have voluntarily implemented the early warning system for literacy. This includes 305 public school districts, 43 nonpublic schools, and 634 buildings. As a result, 155,003 students have been tested for reading deficiencies.

Hosp provided an overview addressing why the center was built, the charge of the center through lawmakers, and what has been accomplished to date.

Hosp presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

- NAEP 4th Grade Reading Proficient and Advanced 1992-2013
- A Call to Action

- Establishment of the IRRC
- IRRC Team
- IRRC Advisory Council
- Purpose of the IRRC
- IRRC Initiatives
- IRRC Support for Assessments and Data System
- Evidence-based Interventions and Strategies
- School Community Partnerships
- Family and Educator Resources
- Intensive Summer Reading Program
- Building Iowa's Home for Literacy

A video was shown featuring a school that has been using the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST), the Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDIs), and the Statewide Data System: Iowa TIER.

Another video was shown that highlighted faculty from the universities and colleges that have been trained on FAST, IGDI's and the Iowa TIER.

Brad Buck shared information regarding a meeting that was held at the University of Iowa with university leadership and professors as well as legislators. Discussion centered around where there are opportunities to make linkages between the IRRC, the University of Iowa, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). A similar meeting will be held at Iowa State University.

There was discussion regarding the intensive summer reading programs school districts are required to provide beginning May 1, 2017, what districts do that don't have local partners to help support literacy efforts, whether there are other states that have model summer school programs that Iowa could learn from, and how implementation of the law will be monitored.

Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report 2014

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, and Kent Farver shared highlights from the *Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report 2014*. This report provides information on fall credit enrollment at Iowa's 15 community colleges as of the tenth business day of the semester.

Farver presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

- Student Profile
- Fall Enrollment
 - Fall enrollment declined 0.49 percent to 93,772 students. Enrollment decreased at 12 community colleges.
- Average Credit Hours
 - Students enrolled in 832,234 credit hours, down 4.6 percent from last fall. This fall, students enrolled in an average of 8.88 credit hours.

- Race and Ethnicity
 - Over 75 percent of students are white. Minority students represent a larger proportion (17.7 percent) than the national average (11.6 percent).
- Age Ranges of Students
- Joint Enrollment
 - Joint enrollment increased 12.2 percent to 31,446 students. Participants in joint enrollment programs accounted for over a third of community college students.
- Fall 2015 Enrollment Projection

There was discussion regarding financial stress on community colleges, whether there's an early warning system for community colleges similar to what is used for K-12 school districts, and recruitment efforts.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President

Brad A. Buck
Director