Nonpublic School Advisory Committee Agenda
October 6, 2015
Grimes State Office Building – State Board Room
1:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Nicole Proesch

Members in Attendance: Kim Hermsen, Julie Delaney, Merrilee Sump, Wayne Dykstra, Jerry Deegan

Department of Education Representatives: Nicole Proesch, Colleen Anderson, Jay Pennington, Thomas Mayes, Meredith MacQuigg (via phone), Holly Barnes, Shan Seivert

Guests: Dan Ryan, Lee Morrison, Tom Chapman, Tracy Bonday, Tom Chapman

1) **Introduction of Holly Barnes as the new nonpublic Department representative.**
   
   - She is our primary contact for questions related to nonpublic schools.
   - The best way to reach her is through email at [Holly.Barnes@iowa.gov](mailto:Holly.Barnes@iowa.gov).

2) **Smarter Balanced (Colleen Anderson)**
   
   - A cost comparison was shared based on estimates until a RFP is sent out.
   - There would be a $9.55 fee per student to become a member of Smarter Balanced, which includes additional items and resources. The state level fee would be $17.00-$20.00. This would make the total cost per student could be $26.55-$29.55.
   - The legislature will be making decisions as to how the cost might be covered and that is yet to be determined.
   - Per new law, the assessment must be taken in the spring of 2017.
   - Smarter Balanced will cover ELA and math.
   - The science assessment is not covered in these prices.
   - The paper/pencil option is only for Amish Schools who for religious reasons object to the use of computers.
   - There is a 12-week assessment window for the online assessment.
   - The Department believes 95% of schools have the hardware and bandwidth needed per their study and review.
   - If Iowa Assessment New Generation had been chosen the cost would have been $28.25 for both computer-based or paper/pencil.
   - For current Iowa Assessment the fees are $19.75-$21.75.
   - The task force believes we get more for our money with Smarter Balanced.
   - As IEPs and 504s are written a sheet of universal tools (all students), designated supports (any student can have but must have parent permission, and accommodations (IEPs or 504s) will be provided.
   - The Assessment Task Force recommends that the requirement for a second
assessment be adjusted so schools wouldn’t have to pay for 2nd assessments.

- The required Smarter Balanced Assessment applies to 3rd-12th grade.
- The teachers will get digital resources that are linked to class reports.
- There will be a public hearing in November and through rules committee twice (min. 108 day process). Any comment can go to Phil Wise or Nicole Proesch. It could go into effect in January. It does not necessarily have to go through the legislative session.
- There was a discussion that communication hasn’t seemed to filter down to all stakeholders. Some believe the legislators have to vote on approving Smarter Balanced.

3) Data Timelines (Jay Pennington)

- Department Website
  - Jay Pennington demonstrated the Department website that includes nonpublic schools that went live on 10.5.15.
  - Demographic data is posted as available from BEDS report.
  - Currently information is available up to 2013-14 but the 2014-15 information will be posted in the next week or two.
  - C-Plans for nonpublic are not available. Once the website issue is taken care of then the C-Plan for this year will be posted when it is certified, otherwise the previous year’s C-Plan will be posted.

- EdInsight
  - There is a cohort report (1.3) that has information that will be made available to nonpublic schools. Currently this report is just available for public schools.
  - In about 1½ weeks the state average information will be certified and all EdInsight users will receive a communication that the information has been certified.
  - Jay offered the possibility of running special reports for the four dioceses in the future. The information would not be made public but would be available for our use. We will discuss this in the Spring 2016.

4) Special Education (Thomas Mayes)

- Thomas gave an overview of the history of special education services for nonpublic students in the state of Iowa.
- A child with a disability that attends a nonpublic school is entitled to have an IEP funded by a combination of state, local, and federal dollars.
- In Iowa the federal special education funds flow through the AEAs for support services (speech, OT, evaluation, school social worker, consultation, etc.)
- If a student with an IEP not served by AEA then their special education needs would be part of the public school weighted count. The public school would provide services.
  - What services and where those services are provided should be negotiated between public school, IEP team, parents, nonpublic school.
o All special education students fall under Free Appropriate Public Education.
o Public school could:
  ▪ 1) Send teacher over to nonpublic
  ▪ 2) Bus the child to the public
  ▪ 3) Consult with nonpublic general education teachers

• Sample Dispute Areas-Single subject disabilities (If a single goal area can’t be accomplished by consultation, the public school would likely prefer to offer services in their school and provide transportation.)

• Resources:
o Resources for information about the legal options: Thomas will email Kim Hermsen a letter outlining explanations to use with various stakeholders.
o Thomas is willing to do presentations to administrative groups. Dan Ryan will try to schedule him for Iowa Catholic Administrators Conference in June.
o “John T.” Logic—Court case about a para-educator.
o Finance-Coach public school districts to contact the Department with funding questions. They get 100% of funding a year late. (Off the top of foundation aid).
o The “ASK” (access for special kids) group.
o Disability Rights Iowa-specialty law group for children with disabilities.
o Each AEA has a parent advocate (even nonpublic parents can access).
o The consultation model seems to be underutilized in nonpublic schools and more information can be found in the Consultation guidelines. This could be a future topic.

• Thomas Mayes sent a follow up email after the meeting to include:
o Guidance on Early Literacy: https://www.educateiowa.gov/early-literacy-implementation
o Contact information on Early Literacy law:
  ▪ Deborah Reed, director of the Iowa Reading Research Center: deborah-reed@iowareadingresearch.org
  ▪ Amy Williamson, chief, Bureau of School Improvement: amy.williamson@iowa.gov

5) Literacy Summer School (Thomas Mayes)
• The regulations are written make it optional for nonpublic schools to participate in 3rd grade retention.
• Applies to this year’s 2nd graders but there is a waiver available for one year.
• The assessment on whether someone is not proficient will be based on the
periodic universal screeners.
- The rules are being written on this issue. There is an option for nonpublic 3rd graders falling below proficiency to have access to summer school.
- Dr. Reeve and Amy Williamson are resources for nonpublic schools to make connections with this issue.

6) Update on Bullying & Harassment Data (Meredith MacQuigg)
- Meredith said information has been updated on the website along with forms with the only change being reporting only incidents that were founded.
- A template for local use is on the website but information will be collected once via Survey Monkey.
- There has been the creation of the Office of Bullying and Harassment by the Governor. (Schools should go on the website to subscribe to Governor’s executive orders and communications.)

7) Legislative Update (Shan Seivert)
- They are working on a preliminary list of possible legislative priorities.
- Smarter Balanced hearing will be in early November and then go before rules committee.
- The nonpublic schools urged that we be included in the data as legislators consider funding options for Smarter Balanced.
- Science Standards: The contact person is Erika Cook.
- Early Literacy: Proposing an early literacy coaching system to teach teachers and a statewide advisory council to develop criteria. Shan will ask Dave Tilly about nonpublic representation on this project.
- Thinking about adding computer science as a graduation requirement—very beginning stages of conversation. The type of teacher certification needed will be an issue that needs to be studied.
- Rule Making (Nicole Proesch)
  - Five rules in September brought before State Board of Education and going to a public hearing on November 3rd.
    - Epi-pens (“may” language so our schools could be included)
    - Categorical funding (Preschool)
    - Intensive Summer School Criteria
    - Gap Tuition for Community Colleges: changes to poverty levels for tuition assistance
    - Accountability Assessments
    - All potentially to be voted on in November and put into place in January

8) Initiatives for the Upcoming Year (Holly Barnes)
- Differentiated Accountability Pilot includes 5 nonpublic volunteers-what visits might look like are to be determined.
• Council on Educator Development (Linda Carrol is new bureau chief)
  https://www.educateiowa.gov/article/2015/10/01/feedback-needed-educator-development-preliminary-recommendations

  Next Meeting: December 8, 2015 at 1:00 pm

  Future Topics: Title II/Part A Consultation Process, Preschool Licensure Update