



**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
September 17, 2015**

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

Ryan M. Wise  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, September 17, 2015, in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Rosie Hussey, Mike Bearden, Mike May, Brooke Axiotis, Mary Ellen Miller, Diane Crookham-Johnson, and Hannah Rens. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Ryan Wise, David Tilly, Jeff Berger, Shan Seivert, Nicole Proesch, Staci Hupp, Erika Cook, Larry Bice, Jeremy Varner, Mary Delagardelle, Amy Williamson, Phil Wise, Thomas Mayes, Tom Cooley, Sarah Brown, Melissa Walker, Rita Martens, Sharon Hawthorne, Holly Barnes, Janet Boyd, Pradeep Kotamraju, Linda Carroll, Jay Pennington, Isbelia Arzola, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: D. T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; Mike Wells, Hamburg Community School District; Jake Parizek, Data Recognition Corporation; Frank Hilton; Deborah Reed and Sara McInerney, Iowa Reading Research Center; Jodi Grover; Heather Stancil; Tammy Wawro and Melissa Peterson, Iowa State Education Association; Richard Lee, WHO Radio; Michelle Crystal; Jack Ewing and Kathy Hanlon, Legislative Services Agency; Betsy Shelton, Reaching Higher Iowa; Jeff Moorman; Kim Carson, Pearson; Chris Mitchell, ACT; Christy Wolfe, Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; Sheila King, Heartland Area Education Agency; and Stacey Post, LS2group.

### **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

It was moved by Rosie Hussey and seconded by Brooke Axiotis that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATION**

#### **Public Comment**

Heather Stancil provided public comment opposing the United States Department of Education requirement relating to alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Tammy Wawro, President, Iowa State Education Association, provided public comment in support of the Smarter Balanced assessments.

## **Director's Report**

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), reported that he had the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama who was recently in Des Moines.

He also had the opportunity to spend time with United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan who was in Iowa on his "Ready for Success" bus tour. Duncan highlighted that Iowa is at the forefront nationally breaking new ground and is a leader in the area of teacher leadership.

Wise talked about the need for the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. There was discussion regarding the challenges with NCLB.

Wise has met with all of the Department managers and work teams in an effort to ensure the agency is high-functioning. He has also been meeting with external organizations including school districts, community colleges, The University of Iowa, and the Iowa Reading Research Center, where he is sharing the approach of the Department and listening to what is happening in the field.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Mike Knedler 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)**

Nicole Proesch, Administrative Rules Co-coordinator, Office of the Director, and Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, presented the Chapter 25 rules. The revised Chapter 25 rules incorporate changes to the Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program included in House File 658, passed by the 2015 Iowa General Assembly. Changes associated with House File 658 include modifying the criteria to determine financial need by decreasing the family income requirement from 12 to six months, and adding two provisions which: (1) prioritize the provision of assistance to individuals earning income between 150 percent and 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and (2) bar individuals eligible from receiving assistance under the Gap Tuition Assistance Program if they are eligible for assistance under the federal Workforce Investment Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, unless all budgeted funds under these acts have been fully expended.

Varner indicated that the intent of House File 658 was to streamline program administration and to align with the federal law. There is no change to program eligibility.

**Motion:** Rosie Hussey made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 25.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 14 - Iowa School Health Services (Notice)**

Nicole Proesch and Melissa Walker, Consultant, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, presented the Chapter 14 rules. The 86<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, in Senate File 462, established that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools may stock an epinephrine injector supply and directed the Department to adopt rules necessary for schools to voluntarily implement the Act. This new chapter includes rules for the implementation of Senate File 462.

Proesch talked about the process used in developing the rules and the other agencies that provided input.

There was discussion about whether this rule precludes students from carrying their own EpiPen.

**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 14.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 12 - General Accreditation Standards (Notice)**

David Tilly, Deputy Director, and Phil Wise, Administrative Rules Co-coordinator, Division of Policy and Communications, presented the Chapter 12 rules. On August 6, 2015, the Board directed the Department to present proposed rules for Notice of Intended Action adopting the recommendations of the Assessment Task Force convened pursuant to section 256.7(21).

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(21), the Board is required to “adopt rules incorporating accountability for, and reporting of, student achievement into the standards and accreditation process described in section 256.11.” That subsection further requires that the rules adopted by the Board, for the school year beginning July 1, 2016, provide for a statewide assessment that is aligned with Iowa academic standards in both content and rigor, and that provides valid, reliable, and fair measures of student progress toward college or career readiness.

The rules adopt the Smarter Balanced assessment as Iowa’s assessment. The Department was directed to select a vendor through a request-for-proposal to administer the Smarter Balanced assessment. The Assessment Task Force shall continue its work and will review the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessment.

There was discussion regarding the process and criteria used in selecting members of the Assessment Task Force, and the grade levels that data will be reported out on.

**Motion:** Mary Ellen Miller made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 12, which deals with the accreditation of schools, in order to align that chapter with the requirements of Iowa Code section 256.7(21).

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

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

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, presented the Chapter 98 rules. These rules outline the financial management of categorical funding. Berger explained the statutory changes made during the 2015 legislative session that impact existing categorical funding programs. Those changes impact the uses of the administrative funds from preschool foundation aid; the uses of funds for at-risk programs, alternative programs and alternative schools, and programs for potential or returning dropouts; allowable uses of the management fund; and expanded usage of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy.

There was discussion regarding preschool enrollment and funding, and financial responsibility for students in mental health facilities.

**Motion:** Rosie Hussey made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 98.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 61 – Iowa Reading Research Center (Notice)**

David Tilly and Sara McInerney, Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC), presented the Chapter 61 rules, which establish program criteria and guidelines for the intensive summer literacy program required by Iowa Code section 279.68 dealing with student progression toward literacy.

The criteria and guidelines contained in this Noticed rule were based on the work and recommendations of a multiple-member team convened by the IRRC, which examined current practices in Iowa schools and evidence-based research on summer reading acceleration.

**Motion:** Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 61.

There was discussion regarding the logistics of the intensive summer learning program, transportation, the rationale for offering 75 hours of intensive reading instruction, how summer programs will be funded, the importance for eligible students to attend a summer

program since retention is not in the best interest of students, and school districts' responsibilities.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### ***In re Suspension of J.M. (Colfax-Mingo Community School District)***

Nicole Proesch presented *In re Suspension of J.M. (Colfax-Mingo Community School District [CMCSD])*. During the 2014-2015 school year, administration at CMCSD received information that J.M. was in possession of and disseminating nude photographs of female CMCSD students to junior high and high school boys. After a short investigation, J.M. was found in possession of the photos on his cell phone. Several boys indicated that J.M. had shared those photos with them.

The principal at Colfax-Mingo High School determined this conduct to be a substantial disruption to the school environment and the present health and safety of other students. He immediately issued a three day out-of-school suspension under the Student Conduct Policy and a suspension of four calendar weeks from participation in athletics under the Good Conduct Policy. The CMCSD board in a 4-2 decision upheld the decision of the administration. The Appellants appealed this decision.

The proper standard of review of a decision of the local school board that involves discretion is for an abuse of discretion. Thus, that standard was applied. It was found that there is more than enough evidence that J.M. violated the District's Student Conduct Policy and Good Conduct Policy. There was no evidence that the local board abused its discretion. As long as the punishment is reasonable, the decision will be upheld. The State Board cannot say that the decision of the CMCSD Board is unreasonable.

It was recommended that the State Board affirm the decision of the local board.

There was discussion regarding the seriousness of this situation, the Board's lack of ability to increase the penalty, the need for the CMCSD and other districts in the state to look into an FBI program on Internet safety and the ramifications of distributing pornography on the Internet.

**Motion:** Rosie Hussey made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the local board of directors of the Colfax-Mingo Community School District to suspend J.M. for three days from school and four calendar weeks from athletic activities.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Heartland Area Education Agency (AEA) Accreditation**

Sharon Hawthorne, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, introduced Shelia King, Executive Director of System Supports, Heartland AEA.

Hawthorne reported that the AEA accreditation visits are based on the eight standards that are outlined in 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 72. She described the accreditation process, which includes a document review/desk audit, interviews, and wrap-up.

Hawthorne highlighted one of the overall strengths, which was *Restructuring of the Agency*. She also talked about the *Inconsistency in Delivery of Services* recommendation.

King responded to questions regarding training with the Iowa Core, competency-based education, and training on the professional development model.

There was discussion regarding follow-up on the recommendations. Specifically, inconsistencies in the way professional development is structured and determined.

There was additional discussion regarding changes that are occurring with the AEA accreditation process (differentiated accountability).

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board grant continued accreditation to Heartland AEA 11.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Update on the Hamburg and Farragut Community School Districts' Accreditation**

Jeff Berger and Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, provided an update on the Hamburg and Farragut Community Districts' Accreditation.

The Department's accreditation and finance teams made the first of four quarterly visits to Hamburg Community School District and Farragut Community School District on August 19-20, 2015. The Board originally voted to conditionally accredit both districts. Part of that accreditation was that the districts receive quarterly visits to ensure they are maintaining the conditions of their conditional approval.

Williamson reported findings for the following compliance categories for the Farragut Community School District and the Hamburg Community School District: *continued noncompliance, previously corrected noncompliance, and new noncompliance*.

Berger provided a finance update for the Farragut Community School District and the Hamburg Community School District.

There was discussion regarding the minimum number of students needed to consolidate districts, challenges of sustainability, concern with the quality of education, and the timeframe for transition if districts are dissolved.

Mike Wells, Hamburg Community School District superintendent, provided comments.

## **State Report Card for No Child Left Behind (2015)**

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis, shared information from *The State Report Card for No Child Left Behind*. This report is required as part of the federal law and provides information about multiple measures including student achievement, attendance rates, graduation rates and schools and districts that missed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets based on student performance on state math and reading tests.

Pennington presented a PowerPoint that addressed the following:

- AYP Results District/School Breakdown by Year
- Reading – All Students
- Mathematics – All Students
- Free or Reduced Priced Eligibility
- Hispanic Students
- African American Students
- State Report Card

There was discussion regarding dismay with the data presented, NCLB sanctions, funding for schools in need of assistance, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

## **Science Standards Rollout Plan**

David Tilly and Erika Cook, Chief, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, shared the initial strategic plan for the rollout of the new Iowa Science Standards that the Board adopted on August 6, 2015. The plan contains ideas for public relations, professional development opportunities, and a timeline. A more detailed implementation plan and accompanying documents will be written this fall for dissemination.

There was discussion regarding the importance of a statewide professional development effort, the need for additional participation by other universities and colleges around the state, the importance of connecting with teacher preparation programs, and how this will mesh with the new assessment system.

## **Secondary Career and Technical Education Task Force Conversation**

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, and Pradeep Kotamraju, Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, provided an update on the progress of the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force.

In 2013, House File 604 mandated the establishment of a Secondary CTE Task Force to review existing programming and make recommendations that reduce skill shortages, enhance economic growth, and ensure that all students have access to high-quality, globally competitive CTE programs.

Kotamraju reviewed the following draft recommendations from the task force report that will be released on October 26, 2015:

Recommendation 1: Promote career- and college-readiness through thoughtful career guidance and purposeful academic and technical planning practices.

Recommendation 2: Provide high-quality, integrated CTE programming comprised of secondary exploratory and transitory coursework to prepare students for higher-level, specialized academic and technical training.

Recommendation 3: Afford students the opportunity to access a spectrum of high-quality work-based learning experiences through a coherent delivery system that streamlines and leverages existing initiatives.

Recommendation 4: Address the shortage of qualified CTE instructors by expanding opportunities to obtain academic and technical training in licensure areas and examining preservice preparation and licensure practices to remove barriers for horizontal and vertical career advancement for individuals within the profession.

Recommendation 5: Through collaboration and regional partnerships, provide for increased and equitable access to high-quality CTE through a statewide system of regional centers.

There was discussion regarding collaborative efforts, the importance of career paths and opportunities for students, funding, the concept of regional centers, support of community college presidents, the importance of having qualified instructors, and opportunities for students in rural Iowa.

The final report to the Iowa General Assembly is due November 1, 2015.

### **Report on the Yearlong Student Teaching Pilot**

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, reviewed the *Yearlong Student Teaching Pilot* report. In 2013, the Iowa Legislature authorized a pilot of yearlong student teaching in Iowa. The competitive selection process yielded two programs to participate in the pilot: the University of Northern Iowa and Dordt College. Once selected, the two programs planned and implemented a pilot of yearlong student teaching through the 2014-2015 academic year. The report describes the pilot programs' plans, curriculum and budgets. The report includes findings and implications informed by reports from the pilot institutions and data gathered by a number of evaluators and monitors.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Statute
- Process
- Schools
- Curriculum

- Implementation and Monitoring
- Findings
- Implications
- Possible Applications

There was discussion regarding the expense, scholarships, whether Dordt College and the University of Northern Iowa plan to continue to offer this program, the mentors' role, and what can be garnered from this experience.

### **Assessment Update and Discussion**

David Tilly and Emily Thatcher, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, shared information regarding the assessment system for students with significant cognitive disabilities. State and federal law requires that all students be included in the accountability system. Approximately 1 percent of students cannot demonstrate their achievement on the Iowa Tests due to significant cognitive disabilities. These students' achievement can be included using an alternate assessment.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- All Children Participate in State Accountability Assessments
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment Consortium
- Beliefs
- Assessment Performance Levels
- 2014-2015 DLM Results, Grades 3-8, 10 and 11
- Next Steps

### **2015-2016 Academic Year, Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report**

Jeremy Varner shared highlights of the *Tuition and Fees Report – Fiscal Year 2016*. This annual report includes trends in tuition and fees among Iowa's community colleges as well as comparisons to Iowa's public universities and community colleges nationally.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Medians per Credit Hour
- Total Cost of Enrollment by College
- Online Tuition
- Approved Reciprocity
- National Comparisons
- Regional Comparisons
- Institutional Comparisons
- Revenue Sources Since 1980

### **State Board Policy Priorities for 2015-2016 and Master Calendar**

Ryan Wise distributed a document titled *Iowa State Board of Education Policy Development Priorities 2015-2016* and the Master Calendar. He described changes to the policy document and indicated that the Indicators of Progress and State Board Support

Activities have been updated. The Master Calendar is an evolving document and will continuously be updated.

Wise indicated that work will begin on the development of the Board's annual priorities brochure.

Charlie Edwards commented on the development of the meeting agendas and the focus on Board priorities with the alignment to the Department's priorities as much as possible.

Edwards indicated that at the 2016 retreat there will be discussion regarding possibly including a community college priority.

## **Board Reports**

Brooke Axiotis attended a town hall meeting at North High School where President Obama and Secretary Duncan were speaking. She encouraged other Board members to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) annual conference. She's running for a two-year position on the NASBE Board.

Rosie Hussey referenced articles from her local newspaper on competency-based education and a college search tool that compare costs and debts.

Mike May will be meeting with legislators regarding the Smarter Balanced assessments, the Board's priorities, and other topics. He expressed desire for the Board to do a listening tour around the state. He suggested visiting a Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) school.

Mary Ellen Miller also expressed desire for the Board to meet at a different location around the state at least once a year. She and Charlie Edwards have been preparing for a meeting with the Des Moines Register Editorial Board. She's been talking to her local legislators regarding the education funding veto. She also plans to meet with her local school superintendent.

Mike Knedler plans to attend a breakfast with staff from the Council Bluffs Community School District. He will also be participating on a conference call with the NASBE Finance Committee. Ryan Wise was on the front page of his local newspaper with regard to his comments on NCLB.

Charlie Edwards received an invitation to attend an event with President Obama when he was recently in Des Moines. He also talked about proactive communication efforts.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

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Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President

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Ryan M. Wise  
Director