

DRAFT

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
April 19, 2007

The April meeting of the State Board of Education was held in Board Room A of the West Des Moines Marriott, West Des Moines, Iowa. The following Board members were present: Gene Vincent, Rosie Hussey, Charlie Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Wayne Kobberdahl, Mary Jean Montgomery, and Max Phillips. State Board members absent: Jackie Dout, Brian Gentry and John Jessen. Director Judy Jeffrey and Department staff Gail Sullivan, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Carol Greta, Janice Friedel, Roger Stirler, Arlie Willems, Beverlee Adams, Kenda Jochimson, Su McCurdy, Chris Evans, John Hartwig, Gary Schwartz, and Linda Berg were also present. Others present were: Lynn Campbell, *Des Moines Register*; Don Long, Faith Baptist Bible College; Keith Sersland, Mason City Community School District; Randy Cram, Bergland and Cram Architects, Mason City; Bob Sweeney, Atlantic Community School District; Matt Carver, School Administrators of Iowa; Heather Anderson, Iowa Student Loan/College Planning Center; Megan Hogan, Iowa College Student Aid Commission; John Davis, Shenandoah Community School District; Connie Maxson, Area Education Agency 14; Sue Danielsen, WHO Radio; Dar Danielsen, Radio Iowa; Sean Miller, *Cityview Newspaper*; John Naughton, *Des Moines Register*, and Amber Bryant-Tapper, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

State Board Business Meeting

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Rosie Hussey moved approval of the agenda as presented. Wayne Kobberdahl seconded.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director Report

Student member John Jessen's term would end on April 30, 2007. Gene Vincent reported that applicant names for the 2007-08 year have been submitted to the Governor's Office for appointment. No selection has been made at this time.

Director Jeffrey reported that the Department is developing a Finance Report Card for each school district. Roger Stirler is working with staff to get this information to our website.

Jeffrey reported speaking at a number of different meetings:

- ISEA Delegate Assembly
- Mentoring and Induction Conference
- Superintendent meetings
- Mason City Rotary
- Iowa Council of Foundations

Twenty-five schools will be participating in an Arbor Day Tree Planting on the West Capitol Grounds. Each school contributed to having a tree planted and will have a plaque to honor that school.

Jeffrey discussed the Microsoft settlement which will provide some funding for technology in Iowa schools.

Director Jeffrey highlighted two pieces of legislation:

- Preschool Bill passed—Board involvement in recognition ceremony
- Teacher Quality Bill status

A more thorough report will be provided by Jeff Berger.

Legislative Update

Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison, provided a legislative update on the current status of education bills.

Director Jeffrey and State Board members recognized Jeff for his work and were appreciative of the success he had had in achieving Board and Department legislative priorities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The minutes of the February 7, 2007 and March 8, 2007 State Board of Education meetings were approved.

Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

Approval was granted to Concordia Lutheran School in Storm Lake to expand accreditation to grades kindergarten through grade 7 from its current kindergarten through grade 6 status.

Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 17, "Open Enrollment", amendments were approved for notice of intended action.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 34, "Funding for Children Residing in State Institutions or Mental Health Institutes" amendments were approved for adoption.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Chapter 56, Iowa Administrative Code, "Vocational Rehabilitation Services"

Carol Greta, Legal Counsel and Kenda Jochimsen, Rehabilitation Services Bureau Chief reviewed the changes proposed for Chapter 56. The amendments continue the process of aligning state and federal regulations and provide for better client services in the field. The name change for the chapter reflects the correct name of this division of the Department of Education, as of February, 2005.

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery to approve the Chapter 56, Vocational Rehabilitation Services rules for notice of intended action.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Faith Baptist Bible College Practitioner Preparation Program

Arlie Willems, Administrative Consultant, Practitioner Preparation outlined the findings from the team visit to Faith Baptist Bible College. She introduced Don Long, Faith Baptist College, who was in attendance. A day-long preliminary review of the College was

conducted on July 31, 2006 and the site visit occurred in September, 2006. Because the program schedules student teaching in the spring semester, clinical visits were conducted during February, 2007. Willems indicated that the institutional report and exhibits provided to the State were exceptionally clear, transparent, and well-organized. The team expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Christian School program.

Arlie Willems shared the information found for the review of the following program approval standards:

1. Governance and Resources
2. Diversity
3. Faculty
4. Clinical
5. Candidate Assessment
6. Program Assessment

Mary Jean Montgomery asked questions about the number of program clinicals. There was also discussion regarding data driven materials in the program.

Motion: Max Phillips moved and Mary Jean Montgomery seconded that the Board approve the Faith Baptist Bible College practitioner preparation program through the next state visit cycle scheduled for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies (AEAs)

Roger Stirler, Chief, Bureau of Internal Operations and Connie Maxson, Chief Administrator, Area Education Agency 14, presented this agenda item.

Roger Stirler indicated that Iowa Code section 273.3, subsection 12, requires that the Board either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments by April 1 of each year. The Board gives final approval only to budgets submitted by AEAs accredited by the Board or that have been given conditional accreditation by the Board. All Area Education Agencies have been accredited for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Connie Maxson provided an overview on how AEA budgets work and the difficulties in managing budgets and providing quality services in areas with declining enrollments.

Discussion continued on the funding streams for area education agencies and how the Board could be of assistance in encouraging legislative dollars to be used for the many services provided to local school districts and communities.

Motion: It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery and seconded by Charlie Edwards to approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2007-2008 as presented.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa's General Educational Development (GED) Testing Program

Janice Friedel, Administrator, and John Hartwig, Educational Program Consultant, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, were available for this presentation. Chris Evans, Consultant, Community College Management Information System, was also present.

John Hartwig stated that the 2002 Series GED Tests reflect current high school curriculum standards while including content relevant to the workplace and community. The 2002 Series reflects the standards developed at the national and jurisdictional levels and recommended by panels of experts representing the core academic disciplines of English-language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Hartwig said that the GED Tests provide a uniform measure of high school achievement. Passing the tests means the same thing in every state in the United States, throughout Canada, and around the world.

Dr. Hartwig indicated that the Iowa Department of Education has issued 189,000 Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas from 1966 through the present. The Iowa community college system serves as the primary delivery system for Iowa's GED Testing infrastructure.

Hartwig shared a power point presentation explaining the statistical results of the GED Testing program candidates.

Overview—School District Energy Efficiency Efforts

Roger Stirler, Chief, Bureau of Internal Operations, introduced Gary Schwartz, Infrastructure Consultant, Division of Financial and Information Services, Randy Cram, President, Bergland and Cram

Architects, Mason City, Iowa, and Keith Sersland, Superintendent, Mason City Community Schools, to discuss this agenda item.

Gary Schwartz provided background information from various Iowa school districts and how they were utilizing energy efficiency measures in their districts. Some of the energy measures are as follows:

- Converted incandescent and T12 fluorescent lighting to more energy efficient T8 fluorescent lighting systems
- Replaced inefficient boiler systems with geothermal systems
- Installed motion sensors to turn lights off
- Use energy management systems to control heating, cooling and lighting
- Installed more efficient plumbing fixtures
- Installed LED exit lighting systems that use a fraction of the energy.

He also indicated that most school districts work with their utility companies to do energy audits and apply for energy rebates. One school district had collaborated with the city to install a wind generator to supply electricity. Schwartz said that ten Iowa school districts operate wind turbines. He also provided a list of helpful websites for energy efficiency that could be useful to school districts.

Keith Sersland, Superintendent, Mason City Community School District, reported on the efficiency measures and cost savings in the Mason City schools. The energy measures also showed improvement in student achievement with increased natural light, controlled temperatures and indoor air quality in the classroom.

Architect Randy Cram discussed the Green Building movement in schools, business and industry and the associated costs. He reported that in the U.S., buildings are responsible for almost half (48%) of all greenhouse gas emissions annually. The U.S. Green Building Green Council:

- Implemented the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program
- Transforms the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated
- Enables environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves quality of life
- Promotes buildings that are profitable and healthy places to live and work.

Cram said that the LEED Rating System used consistent performance benchmark standards acting as guidelines in designing a green building.

The architects have assisted school districts in designing new buildings or making their current facility more efficient to reduce operating costs, have healthier and more productive occupants and to conserve natural resources and work within school district budgets. Mr. Cram provided a handout that listed some case studies of school districts and the energy system costs and rebates. Also pointed out were different sources of bonds or funding mechanisms that would be helpful in renovation or building.

Max Phillips talked about the funding in smaller or rural areas and how they could implement energy efficiencies without exceeding their bonds. Montgomery asked about the Board's role to encourage schools to look at green building efficiencies.

President Vincent indicated the Board would be interested in learning more about the energy efficiency programs as they continue to expand and green building practices become more prevalent.

Update on New Requirements for Eighth Grade Plan – (Iowa Choices Demonstration)

Linda Berg, Consultant, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, explained that Iowa Choices is the state-designated Career Information and Decision-making System (CIDS). The tool is designed to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to assist students and parents with career and educational exploration and information.

Berg introduced the members of the Interagency Partnership; Heather Andersen, Iowa Student Loan/College Planning Center and Megan Hogan, Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

John Davis, Counselor, Shenandoah High School, talked about the current role of school counselors and how they provide effective assistance to students for today's world. He felt it was critical that career planning be an integral part of curriculum in our schools no later than the eighth grade year. The world is headed in a technical direction and student awareness is important to make good future career choices. Davis also reiterated that it is important for students to know who they are and what their interests are to make good career choices. He felt these CHOICES products are an asset in helping teachers, students and parents in career planning.

Heather Andersen demonstrated Iowa Choices Explorer including 1) Middle/junior high school product, 2) Create a portfolio, 3) Recognize

connection between interests and careers, and 4) Awareness and exploration of all career opportunities.

Megan Hogan, Iowa College Student Aid Commission demonstrated the Choices Planner tool. It covered the following areas: 1) High school product, 2) Expand portfolio, 3) Relate skills and knowledge to careers, 4) Explore careers by educational majors; 5) Create resume and interview skills, and 6) Fill out job and college applications and financial aid.

Andersen and Hogan also stated that free technical assistance was available for use of these planning tools and free access is offered for the online product. At the current time there are 76,000 active portfolios and a total of 150,000 portfolios.

Linda Berg said the Department also provides a variety of resources for school counselors including the Iowa Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program Development Guide. The guide, based on the American School Counselors' Association national model, is the framework for implementing a comprehensive and accountable school counseling program. She also indicated that school counseling programs help students achieve in academically rigorous environments, develop life skills, draw up relevant career and educational plans to meet future goals, and practice citizenship.

Mr. Davis stated that CHOICES was a great tool for classroom teachers as well. They can create an assignment for homework in the CHOICES program. He recommended that State Board members experiment with this career planning program.

Review Feedback Related to New Athletic Eligibility Rule

Carol Greta, Legal Counsel, reported on the results of a survey related to the implementation of the new athletic eligibility rule. She said the response to the survey was less than 50 percent. Greta indicated that she had worked with Mr. Watson, Urbandale Activities Director, as he designed the survey instrument to include questions the Board might have been interested in.

Greta indicated that the standard of "pass all" is almost universally accepted by school districts and other athletic organizations. Difficulties reported in the survey results include the penalty portion of the rule and the inequities of the bona fide competitor aspect of the rule when they enforce that segment. Greta summarized comments that were made and indicated that suggestions had been captured made to modify portions of the rule.

Edwards talked about the length of time that has been spent on discussion of this rule change. He suggested the Board look at the rule after a selected timeframe to accurately and fairly measure the effects. He did not feel this survey was conclusive in providing the information required.

Mr. Edwards suggested the Board take the rule under advisement and put together a committee of the Board to review the effects after one year.

Mary Jean Montgomery echoed Mr. Edwards comments and talked about the rule that was passed unanimously by the State Board of Education a year ago. The Board was mitigating a lot of concerns that area superintendents, coaches, athletic directors, and State Board members had in trying to balance different things. She felt the rule probably needed some tweaking; however, she felt it was far too early to make those decisions. Montgomery said the point was making sure that the school improvement plan included those supports and vehicles that helped all kids be successful, so that kids are not failing. She also felt that a State Board group needed to come together and ask the right questions to gather the data. She felt the data gathered needed to be guided by very specific questions where the concerns lie.

Wayne Kobberdahl felt that the Board standard is very reasonable and that consideration should be given to tweaking the language if that would be more meaningful to students. He also felt that additional data should be collected and he agreed that more time should be allowed for the standard to be in place. Perhaps a committee should be selected to determine what parameters should be looked at and what tweaking should be done.

Rosie Hussey said that she was appreciative of the data that had been gathered but also thought additional data should be gathered after the rule was in place at least a year. Hussey felt that there may be repercussions the Board did not anticipate and felt that a committee would be helpful in providing direction to the data gathering process.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick also agreed with a committee and suggested that besides Board members and Department staff, a representative of a large, medium and small school district should be included-- people who are dealing with this transition in the "real world."

Montgomery agreed and suggested that the committee also include administrators, athletic directors, and parents and students.

President Vincent asked if these additional persons should be committee members or contacts for the committee.

Max Phillips also agreed with a Board committee but was not in favor of a broad committee because he felt that tweaking was needed but that an extensive committee would go beyond that measure. He felt that the Board should keep the current data, decide on a timeframe for further review that is fair for administrators and others.

President Vincent summarized that the rule in place was the rule that would be used for the 2007-2008 school year. Vincent said the committee would need to report back in January for the rules process to begin for the rule implementation in 2008-2009 school year. Vincent appointed a committee of Mary Jean Montgomery, Rosie Hussey, Charlie Edwards and Gene Vincent with a charge of reporting to the Board no later than January, 2008. He also asked Carol Greta to be an ex officio member of this committee and that the committee reserve the right to call in appropriate persons for further input.

President Vincent thanked Carol Greta for work on this rule and also expressed his appreciation to Board members for their input.

Vincent handed out the tentative topics for the May State Board meeting.

President Vincent adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Gene E. Vincent
President

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director
and Executive Officer

