



**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
July 29, 2010**

Rosie Hussey
President
Clear Lake

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
Vice President
Des Moines

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick
West Des Moines

Brian Gentry
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler
Council Bluffs

Valorie J. Kruse
Sioux City

Ana Lopez-Dawson
Pella

Max Phillips
Woodward

LaMetta Wynn
Clinton

Corey Anderson
Student Member
Norwalk

Kevin Fangman
Acting Director and
Executive Officer

The July 29, 2010, meeting of the State Board of Education was held at the Iowa Valley Community College District Continuing Education Center, 3702 South Center Street, Marshalltown. The following State Board members were present: Rosie Hussey, LaMetta Wynn, Charlie Edwards, Max Phillips, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Mike Knedler, and Corey Anderson. Acting Director Kevin Fangman and Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members Carol Greta, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Jeff Berger, Konni Cawiezell, Del Hoover, Roger Utman, Judith Spitzli, Rita Martens, and Jody Crane were in attendance. Also in attendance were Staci Hupp, *The Des Moines Register*; Mick Starcevich, Lois Bartelme, John Swanson, and Jim Mollenhauer, Kirkwood Community College; Beverly Simone, Moudy Nabulsi, and Janet Fife-LaFrenz, Southeastern Community College; Jim Lindenmayer and Roy Lamansky, Indian Hills Community College; Jamie Raney, Iowans; Patrick Hogan, *The Gazette*; Erin Rapp, RPI; Lisa Koester and Susan Pecinovsky, Marshalltown Community School District; Nathan Davis and Chad Cook, Marshalltown Community College; Jason Ellingson, Collins-Maxwell Community School District; Lee Rouse, WHO-TV 13; Chris McCarron and Lynne Devaney, Dubuque Community School District; Dan Miller and Terry Rinehart, Iowa Public Television; MJ Dolan and Linda Claussen, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT); Daniel Kinney and Darrell Determann, Iowa Central Community College; Bill Phelan, Eastern Iowa Community College District; Rhonda Kirkegaard, Northeast Iowa Community College; Connie Hornbeck and Dan Kinney, Iowa Western Community College; Rob Denson and Cheryl Langston, Des Moines Area Community College; Rick Franck, Western Iowa Tech Community College; Jan Lund and Val Newhouse, Iowa Lakes Community College; Barb Crittenden, Southwestern Community College; Larry Hoekstra, Northwest Iowa Community College; Conrad Dejardin, Iowa Valley Community College District; Donna Miller, Hawkeye Community College; and Larry Ebbers, Iowa State University.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

President Rosie Hussey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

It was moved by Mike Knedler and seconded by LaMetta Wynn that the July agenda be approved.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Director's Report

❖ Race to the Top (RTTT)

Kevin Fangman, Acting Director, indicated that Iowa was not selected as a finalist in the RTTT. The Department will not receive its scoring sheets, feedback, or ranking until after the grants are awarded at the end of August. Fangman explained the scoring process for finalists. Nineteen states were finalists and it is anticipated that between eight and 12 states will be awarded the funds. A \$650 million appropriation has been made to support RTTT so there may be a third round that will be open to states and districts.

❖ Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)

Fangman attended a meeting of the CCSSO in Minneapolis where 70 percent of the states were represented. Topics of discussion were the Common Core Standards and Model Core Teaching Standards. Chiefs shared concerns about the four reform models and there was consistent agreement that states want to be held accountable for the achievement in low achieving schools; however, they want the control to be able to make decisions on how to get there. The CCSSO will continue to work with the Obama administration. Even though the Blueprint for Reform has been released by the Obama administration, the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has to go through Congress and there are some indications that the four reform models for low achieving schools do not have a lot of support.

Secretary Arne Duncan spoke at the meeting and the issue of rural states was discussed. If ESEA is reauthorized in 2011, accountability expectations will not change until 2012. Fangman talked extensively about the NCLB proficiency levels. He stated that as the trajectory for No Child Left Behind levels continues to increase, more schools will be identified.

Fangman commented on the bridge between the Obama administration's vision for focusing on the lowest achieving schools, incentivizing the highest achieving schools for being innovative, and leaving the rest of the schools alone.

❖ Model Core Teaching Standards

Fangman indicated that the Model Core Teaching Standards have been released for feedback. These standards are an update of the 1992 Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) model standards for licensing new teachers. Like the earlier standards, they were drafted by representatives of the teaching profession, including practicing teachers, teacher educators, and state education agency staff. The standards are designed to be compatible with the range of national teacher and leader standards currently in use as well as the recently released Common Core State Standards for students in math and English language arts. The goal is to continue building a coherent systemic approach to preparing, licensing, and supporting highly effective teachers who can deliver on the promise to provide a first rate education to every child.

Unlike the original 1992 INTASC standards that were designed for "beginning" teachers, these are intended as professional practice standards, setting one standard for performance that will look different at different development stages of the teacher's career. To reflect this change in emphasis, InTASC has removed "new" from its name and is now called the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC).

Once the standards are finalized it is more than likely that the Iowa Teaching Standards will be revised. Approximately half of the states are starting to enter into the conversation of revising their standards as well.

There was discussion regarding the increase of the trajectory for proficiency levels and how more schools will be identified as low achieving, resources that will be available to assist schools, what the mix is of urban and rural schools that are identified as in need of assistance, and the Obama administration's desire to move everything to a competitive grant process.

❖ State Board Policy Development Priorities/Leadership Agenda

Fangman reviewed the State Board Policy Development Priorities that were developed at the June State Board retreat. Extensive discussion occurred around the priorities and next steps. As a result of the discussion, a plan of study and action will be developed for the coming year.

❖ State Employees Retirement Incentive Program (SERIP)

Fangman reported that the Department has filled three positions that were vacated as a result of SERIP and has approximately 25 more positions to fill.

CONSENT AGENDA

Charlie Edwards moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Chapter 68 – Iowa Public Charter Schools (Notice)

Carol Greta, Attorney, Office of the Director, indicated that the 2010 Iowa Legislature created innovation zone schools which, statutorily, were put in the same area of law as the charter schools. Therefore, the Chapter 68 rules are being amended rather than creating a different chapter.

Greta highlighted the changes to the rules. Specifically, she indicated that the crucial difference between a charter school and an innovation zone school is that an innovation zone school is a public attendance center established by a consortium that must include at least two school districts and an AEA. A charter school is a public attendance center chartered and governed by the local school board of the school district in which the charter school is located.

As a result of the State Board wanting to see more innovation in charter school applications, another crucial change deals with the point system for judging charter school applications. An innovation zone school is scored using the same point system as a charter school. Innovation has gone from 10 points out of 100 to 40 points out of 100. Organization and structure has gone down from 25 points to 10 points.

The legislation removed the cap on charter schools; however, there is a cap of ten on the number of innovation zone schools the State Board can approve.

Another substantive change (Item 10) gives the reason to revoke an existing charter based on student progress failing to show improvement.

Motion: Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and Mike Knedler seconded approval to give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 68.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Kirkwood Community College's Accreditation Report

Roger Utman, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, introduced Dr. Mick Starcevich, Kirkwood Community College President. Utman indicated that the Kirkwood Community College accreditation visit occurred in April 2010. Utman stated that Kirkwood Community College participates in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) model for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. This quality improvement model involves the college creating a

systems portfolio and implementing action projects. AQIP accreditation is on a seven-year cycle.

Utman stated that when preparing the accreditation reports, the team looked at Iowa Code requirements, completed a document review, and conducted interviews with individuals that represented all aspects of the college. This included students, faculty, administrators, board members, and members of the community.

Utman presented a synopsis of the accreditation report and indicated that the team examined the “Adequacy of Progress in Addressing the Previous Accreditation Visit.” One item had been noted during the previous visit and Kirkwood Community College submitted a revised “Quality Faculty Plan” in 2009 to the Department, which met the requirements.

Utman indicated that “Additional State Review Requirements” were examined and found to meet the requirements of the Iowa Code.

Utman highlighted some of the strengths that were noted in the report and indicated that there were no recommendations for institutional improvement. The state accreditation team recommends continuation of accreditation for Kirkwood Community College. A state interim accreditation visit will be held to coincide with the district’s next Higher Learning Commission visit in 2014.

Mick Starcevich thanked Roger Utman and his team for the visit and indicated that Kirkwood looks at the accreditation report’s “Opportunities for Improvement” to see where they can improve.

There was discussion regarding the challenge of dealing with the increase in enrollment that Iowa’s community colleges are experiencing, how the school deals with diversity, and how Kirkwood Community College could be impacted once more emphasis is placed on competency-based instruction and virtual learning.

Motion: Max Phillips moved and Charlie Edwards seconded continued accreditation for the Kirkwood Community College through 2014.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Southeastern Community College Accreditation Report

Roger Utman, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, introduced Dr. Beverly Simone, Southeastern Community College President, and Moudy Nabulsi, Southeastern Community College Board President.

Utman indicated that Southeastern Community College participates in the AQIP model for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. This quality improvement model

involves the college creating a systems portfolio and implementing action projects. AQIP accreditation is on a seven-year cycle.

Utman indicated that when preparing the accreditation reports, the team looked at Iowa Code requirements, completed a document review, and conducted interviews with individuals that represented all aspects of the college. This included students, faculty, administrators, board members, and members of the community.

Utman presented a synopsis of the accreditation report and indicated that the team examined the “Adequacy of Progress in Addressing the Previous Accreditation Visit” and there were no recommendations at the conclusion of the previous interim visit.

Utman indicated that “Additional State Review Requirements” were examined and found to meet the requirements of the Iowa Code.

Utman highlighted some of the strengths that were noted in the report and indicated that there were no recommendations for institutional improvement. The state accreditation team recommends continuation of accreditation for Southeastern Community College. A state interim accreditation visit will be held to coincide with the district’s next Higher Learning Commission visit in 2013.

Dr. Simone and Moudy Nabulsi thanked Utman and his team. Simone indicated this was her first experience going through the Iowa accreditation process and that the college will look at the accreditation report’s “Opportunities for Improvement” to see where they can improve.

There was discussion regarding progress being made on the historical perception of the lack of trust, how the rigor of college classes provided to high school students is evaluated, how Southeastern Community College could be impacted once more emphasis is placed on competency-based instruction and virtual learning, and how effectiveness of instruction is evaluated in high schools.

Motion: Max Phillips moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded continued accreditation for the Southeastern Community College through 2013.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Membership – Research and Development School Advisory Council

Kevin Fangman reported that over the past two years, there have been different groups that have come together around the Research and Development School. A finance study was done the first year and the second year a group worked on strategic planning, facilities, and boundaries. Unfortunately, the group was not able to accomplish as much as was originally hoped.

Fangman viewed materials that included background information and timelines. The primary function of the Research and Development School is:

- Research: study and test new innovative teaching and learning practices
- Development: determine effective pedagogical practices
- Demonstration: model effective teaching practices
- Dissemination: share effective instructional practice

Fangman indicated that the purpose of the Advisory Council is to review and evaluate the educational processes and results of the school. This Advisory Council will provide an annual report to the University of Northern Iowa President, the Iowa Department of Education Director, the Board of Regents, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly. He reviewed the membership of the Advisory Council and indicated that seven of the Advisory Council members were selected because of their position and ten are appointed because of certain categories.

Fangman stated there will be subgroups that will work on various areas and will then report back to the Advisory Council. If the membership changes, the State Board will be asked to approve the change through the consent agenda. The goal is to have the school operational by 2012-13.

There was Board discussion if this school will create any real change, how much influence the Advisory Council will have, and the process used for membership selection.

Motion: Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and LaMetta Wynn seconded approval of the membership of the Research and Development School Advisory Council.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Governor Chet Culver

Rosie Hussey welcomed the Governor and thanked him for the opportunity to dialogue with him. State Board members introduced themselves. The Governor thanked State Board members for their outstanding leadership, their service to the State Board of Education, and the contributions they make by shaping good public policy.

The Governor urged the Board to adopt the Common Core Standards. He stated that he feels good about the fact that the State Board, school districts, educators, and the Department have worked collaboratively in trying to find the best pathway to excellence in education for the future.

In 2008, the Governor signed into law the beginning of the effort raising the bar in terms of expectations in the classroom and trying to push Iowa's students so that they are prepared for the 21st century economy. He commended the Board for their hard work on issues related to the Iowa Core and the Common Core and thinks this allows Iowa's students and schools to become even better in the future.

The Governor reviewed his accomplishments during his first term in office. They include the following:

- Funding for preschool
 - The Governor has a goal during his second term to expand preschool to every four-year-old child in the state.
- Expand healthcare access to children
- Increase teacher pay
- Iowa Core
- Senior Year Plus
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
- School Infrastructure
- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

The Governor reported that he will be meeting with the Iowa State Education Association and plans to roll out his goals for his second term; however, he asked to hear from Board members before he finalizes those goals.

Dialogue occurred between the Governor and State Board members. The conversation centered around the Board's past goals which included innovation, engagement, and quality for students in Iowa; future goals which include competency-based instruction, online learning opportunities, virtual schools, reducing achievement gaps, and the declining enrollment in rural schools; how to raise the bar and expect better performance from students; resources and staff to deliver the Iowa Core and Common Core Standards; support, role and search for the new Department director; improvement in the state's financial situation; the new Research and Development School at the University of Northern Iowa; support and process for filling critical vacancies within the Department; how the Race to the Top process has created a roadmap in terms of competency-based education; improving graduation rates; addressing the achievement gap, and providing support for lower-performing schools.

President Hussey indicated that the State Board will finalize their priorities and send them to the Governor for his review and comments.

There was discussion on innovative models in the state, how to best utilize technology, how to couple competency-based instruction with virtual learning, Florida's virtual school, and increasing expectations for use of technology by teachers.

Common Core Standards

Kevin Fangman introduced Rita Martens and Judith Spitzli, Department Program Consultants. Fangman indicated that an in-depth comparison was done comparing the Common Core Standards and the Iowa Core. He recapped the development of the Common Core Standards and future plans. If the Common Core is adopted, it would become part of the Iowa Core and not a separate document.

Martens described the process used in the alignment. She indicated that the *Achieve* organization created an online tool for states to compare their state standards with the Common Core Standards. With the help of Brad Niebling, an AEA alignment specialist, it was decided to use *Achieve* to conduct the study. Work teams were convened in English language arts and mathematics. Martens explained the make-up of the work teams and the process used with the *Achieve* tool. She also reviewed the research questions used during the alignment process and the results of the English language arts questions.

Judith Spitzli reviewed the results of research questions that related to mathematics. She reminded the Board that states are allowed to add 15 percent of their own standards in addition to the Common Core. She indicated that the Department was very pleased with the results and now has a process to fall back on.

There was discussion clarifying information on the additional content that will need to be added to the Iowa Core, difference in specificity between the Iowa Core and the Common Core Standards, clarification of inclusion of instructional strategies, and the types of delivery mechanisms other states that have adopted the Common Core are using to help equip teachers.

Motion: Max Phillips moved and Charlie Edwards seconded approval to adopt the Common Core Standards in K-12 English language arts and mathematics.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Public Charter Schools: Renewal for Charter Status – Dubuque Community School District

Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator, Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services, introduced Lynne Devaney, Dubuque Community School District Associate Superintendent, and Chris McCarron, Prescott Elementary Charter School Principal.

Hoover reviewed and discussed a document entitled “Prescott Elementary Charter School.” This document outlines the following:

- School/District Information
- Mission of the Charter
- Description of the Charter
- Charter History
- Goals that were included in the original charter and the progress on the goals
- Crosswalk showing if the charter is fulfilling the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 256F

Chris McCarron showed a PowerPoint and shared the following information:

- The school opened as one of Iowa’s newest charter schools in 2006 with a new instructional design

- The school opened serving students PK-5
- The school opened as a School in Need of Assistance
- What makes their charter unique
 - Expeditionary learning
 - Arts emphasis
 - Climate and culture
- Demographic statistics
 - Student enrollment
 - Diversity
 - Poverty level
 - English language learners
 - Special education
 - Mobility
- Student achievement
- Community partnerships

Discussion included the request to collect and monitor longitudinal data on students to determine if they demonstrate more success or possess an advantage over students who have not participated in the charter, the relationship between expeditionary learning and absenteeism, if the school feels it is segregating students because of the high level of diversity, and what the charter school designation allows the Prescott Elementary Charter School that would not otherwise be allowed.

Motion: Charlie Edwards moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded approval of the Prescott Elementary Charter School for Dubuque Community School District to be approved through the end of the 2013-2014 school year. The Charter School shall work with the Department to refine measurable goals and align to newly emerging data systems at the Department.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Collaborative Initiatives with Iowa Public Television

Dan Miller, Iowa Public Television Executive Director and General Manager, and Terry Rinehart, Director of Iowa Public Television Educational Services, presented details of a series of ongoing collaborative efforts between the Department and Iowa Public Television. These efforts make use of educational media and telecommunication technology to support early childhood education, K-12 distance learning, adult literacy, higher education, and school faculty and staff professional development.

Collaborative efforts include:

- Raising Readers
- PBS Kids Island
- Super WHY Camps
- Martha Speaks Reading Buddies
- Raising Readers Learning Centers and Library Corners

- Healthy Minutes
- K-12 Classroom Television
- Iowa Pathways
- K-12 Connections
- Iowa Learning Online
- Education Telecommunications Council
- Contractual Services
- PBS Digital Learning Library
- Adult Literacy

Board Reports

Corey Anderson had no report.

LaMetta Wynn had no report.

Mike Knedler reported that he and Ana Lopez-Dawson attended the National Association of State Boards of Education New State Board Member Institute. The study groups for this year will be focusing on technology and teaching. One presentation focused on dealing with the press. He learned that, as a State Board member, it is important to be consistent with your message - you want to provide the best quality education for all students in the state of Iowa.

Rosie Hussey reported that Ana Lopez-Dawson's father and mother-in-law died.

Hussey attended a General Educational Development (GED) graduation ceremony and said it was a very rewarding experience. She encouraged other Board members to do the same. She had an opportunity to visit with a few of the students and encouraged them to continue on with their education.

Hussey stated that she and Max Phillips are on a committee to assist in the selection of a new Department director.

Max Phillips reported that the Education Excellence in Iowa Roundtable is focusing on virtual learning and competency-based instruction as the agenda items that should be transforming Iowa education. The group will be meeting with Terry Branstad and Governor Chet Culver to identify education agendas. This will allow an opportunity for business leaders and educators on that Roundtable to voice what they think is important. Rosie Hussey asked Phillips to let her know if he sees any opportunity for the State Board to be part of that discussion. She said it would be helpful if instead of the Board reinventing and coming up with new things, they could collaborate and be part of something ongoing. Phillips thinks it's heartening these two groups are on the same path.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick reported that the Coordinating Council for Hearing Services has completed their report. The Legislative Study Committee for the Braille and Sight and

Saving School has completed its work and the recommendation will be that the school not be maintained as a year-round school for residents, but rather for short-term programs and to continue as a statewide resource. The resources devoted to full-time, year-round residents would be redirected to support the needs of visually impaired students throughout the state, with the hope that the legislature will maintain that level of funding for a broader purpose.

State Board of Education and IACCT Joint Meeting

Rosie Hussey thanked the community colleges for the opportunity to meet. She stated that the State Board appreciates, values, and supports the work that community colleges do. As the country and economy change, community colleges are always ready to make the necessary adjustments to help students and workers get back into the workforce.

State Board of Education members introduced themselves.

Rhonda Kirkegaard, IACCT Chair, indicated that community colleges are looked to as being the solution to many of the economic woes in Iowa. She knows that each of the colleges are up to that challenge and looking forward to that opportunity.

Kirkegaard reviewed the Community College's 2011 Legislative Priorities and asked the IACCT Board members to introduce themselves and state what area they represent.

Kirkegaard introduced student Chad Cook. Cook is a nontraditional student who attends Marshalltown Community College. Cook talked about his experience, class size, access to teachers and resources, and the people he has encountered while attending Marshalltown Community College.

Kirkegaard introduced student Nathan Davis who is a recent graduate of Marshalltown Community College. While in high school, he took advantage of the dual enrollment program offered and was able to earn six credits upon entering college. Davis talked about his involvement with the student ambassador program. Davis stated that the University of Northern Iowa signed a partnership with the Iowa Valley Community College District which enabled him to transfer directly to the university. He talked about his experiences and how he has grown while attending Marshalltown Community College.

Mick Starcevich, Kirkwood Community College President, showed a PowerPoint and shared information on the Jones Regional Education Center.

Rosie Hussey indicated the State Board has been looking at K-12 and community college innovation and will continue with that as the State Board goes into quality and engagement of students and the community.

Daniel Kinney, Iowa Central Community College President, shared information on the Storm Lake and Southeast Webster Charter Schools.

Rosie Hussey stated that the State Board is in the process of developing its priorities and goals. Once they are established, they will be shared with the IACCT so they will be aware of the Board's direction.

Rosie Hussey adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Rosie Hussey
President

Kevin Fangman
Acting Director