State Board of Education
Policy Development / Leadership Agenda

2008-2009

Vision: Iowa students will become productive citizens in a democratic society, and successful participants in a global community.

Statement of Mission: Our Mission is to champion excellence for all Iowa students through leadership and service.

State Board Policy Development Priorities

Based on a discussion of 21st century schools, and the educational system that will be needed to prepare our students for the world of the future, four themes were selected as policy development priorities for 2008-2009. The themes are **Innovation, Engagement, Quality, and Expectations**. Following are brief notes from the Board's discussion of these issues at the State Board Retreat, and plans for addressing these priorities at board meetings throughout the coming year:

Innovation

Notes from Board discussion:

- 21st century skills – What do best practices look like in action?
- How do we promote innovation to meet changing needs? (Provide flexibility, share ideas, develop incentives, review charter schools, evaluate new approaches)
- School size/efficiency in operations (interaction with quality)
    - Year round schools
    - Four day school week
    - Move to instructional hours
- Incentives for utilizing new technologies

Master Calendar plan to address the theme of Innovation:

- Identify innovative programs to present to the Board (i.e. Sigourney Entrepreneurial Program) – February 2009
- Invite a school district to share how it is changing its practices with *Authentic Intellectual Work* – July 2009

- Visit a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified school – Iowa City School District, James Van Allen Elementary School in North Liberty (hold State Board Meeting in Iowa City) – September 2009
- Charter School renewal request – Storm Lake/Early College Charter. Ask charter school to describe their program, goals and objectives, and impact on student achievement – February 2009
- Update on Articulation and LACTS (Liaison Advisory Committee for Transfer Students); feature the partnership between Iowa Lakes Community College and the Engineering program at the University of Iowa on wind energy – July 2009

Engagement

Notes from Board discussion:

- How can the State Board engage people across the state to understand and own "quality"?
- Community Conversations -- How can we do a better job of bringing people to the table?
- Invite more "real people" who are implementing programs to appear before the State Board
- Partnerships – best practices to get parents engaged (i.e. using technology to get parents involved; creating a welcoming culture at the school)

Master Calendar plan to address the theme of Engagement:

- Schedule a series of community conversations across the state for the Director and State Board members to meet with members of communities to discuss how schools, parents and the community can work together to improve the quality of their schools and increase student achievement – schedule throughout 2009
- Plan State Board visits to school districts and programs when possible – November 2008, September 2009
- Invite teachers and administrators who are implementing programs to present to the State Board – throughout the year

Quality

Notes from Board discussion:

- How do we promote quality education regardless of the size of the district?
- How do we evaluate quality?
- Phase I and Phase II of the school accreditation system – Is there a better early warning system? Do we need legislative adjustments?

- Teachers / administrators
    - Salary
    - Different roles
    - How to address teacher shortages (especially ELL teachers)
- Impact of transportation costs on instruction
- Mandated writing assessment
    - Must be aligned with essential concepts and skills
    - Best practices – what are other states doing?
    - What would we do with this information to make sure quality improves (technical assistance, professional development)

Master Calendar plan to address the theme of Quality:

- Teacher Development Academies (TDAs) – Invite teachers to talk to the Board about how they have changed their teaching practices as a result of Teacher Develop Academies – December 2008
- Phase I Accreditation Visit – Provide an overview of the process – feature School Improvement Consultants – December 2008
- State Board Work Session – Discuss the Phase II Accreditation Visit process and early warning signs that a district may be having difficulty – December 2008
- K-12 Social Studies and 21st Century Skills – Approve essential concepts and skills – February 2009
- Iowa Core Curriculum – How does the Iowa Core Curriculum improve the quality of instruction? – April/May 2009
- Update on School Leadership Initiatives – November 2009
- Meeting with representatives of the Board of Educational Examiners (possible topic: teacher shortages) – December 2009

Expectations

Notes from Board discussion:

- What does technology mean for the schools of the future?
- What does a technology rich environment look like?
- Technology – how will this change instruction and how does it relate to quality, innovation, and engagement?

Master Calendar plan to address the theme of Expectations:

- Update on EdInsight – this statewide student data system provides the information necessary to assess student needs and increase expectations – September 2009
- Invite school districts to discuss innovative ways they are using technology (i.e. Waterloo Smart Boards, East Marshall Virtual Reality Lab, innovative technology grant recipients) – November 2009
- Online Learning – an update from Iowa Learning Online, AP Online, and the Community College Statewide Consortium – December 2008