



**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
Retreat/Meeting  
June 9-10, 2016**

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President  
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler  
Vice President  
Council Bluffs

Brooke Axiotis  
Des Moines

Michael Bearden  
Gladbrook

Bettie Bolar  
Marshalltown

Diane Crookham-Johnson  
Oskaloosa

Angela English  
Dyersville

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

Mary Ellen Miller  
Mason City and  
Wayne County

Robert Nishimwe  
Student Member  
Des Moines

Ryan M. Wise  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education retreat/meeting was held on Thursday, June 9, and Friday, June 10, 2016, at the Des Moines Area Community College. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Mike May, Mike Bearden, Angela English, Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Mary Ellen Miller, and Robert Nishimwe. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ryan Wise, David Tilly, Jeff Berger, Shan Seivert, Jeremy Varner, Pradeep Kotamraju, Nicole Proesch, Phil Wise, Jay Pennington, Linda Carroll, Mary Delagardelle, Erika Cook, Isbelia Arzola, Carole Richardson, Larry Bice, Matt Ludwig, Eric St Clair, Eric Heitz, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Mark Grey, University of Northern Iowa; Frank Hilton; Kim Carson, Pearson; Susan Fischer, Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure; and Tim Crellin, Legislative Services Agency.

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

### Welcome – Goals of the Retreat

Charlie Edwards welcomed State Board of Education (Board) members who introduced themselves.

Edwards talked about the goals of the retreat.

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), shared comments and talked about the purpose of the retreat.

### **Mark Grey, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration, University of Northern Iowa**

Ryan Wise introduced Mark Grey who is a Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration, University of Northern Iowa. Grey shared information about his work experience and talked about demographic changes in Iowa and the implications for Iowa's education system.

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

## **Primary Roles and Duties of the State Board of Education**

Charlie Edwards turned the gavel over to Mike Knedler who presided over the meeting in his absence.

Board members worked in groups and reviewed Iowa Code section 256.7 and reported on information they would like included in the 2017 State Board Priorities Brochure.

Charlie Edwards returned and presided over the meeting.

## **State Board of Education Priority Reviews – Breakout Conversations**

Board members broke into work groups and discussed progress on each priority area with Department staff. The 2016 priority areas and work groups are:

- Assessment – Charlie Edwards and Mary Ellen Miller
- Iowa Academic Standards – Mike Knedler and Robert Nishimwe
- Reducing Achievement Gaps (with a focus on Multi-tiered System of Supports and Early Literacy and the Iowa School Report Card) – Brooke Axiotis and Diane Crookham-Johnson
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation – Angela English and Mike May
- Innovative Learning Opportunities and Additional Considerations (Competency-based Education, Online Learning, Summer Learning, Career and Technical Education, Community Colleges, and School Climate) – Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar and Angela English

## **Whole Group Discussion of Each Priority Area**

Ryan Wise explained the priority-setting process. Each work group reported back from their priority review discussion.

Board members broke into groups with Department staff and discussed Indicators of Progress and State Board Support Activities for each of the priority areas and reported back to the entire Board.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the retreat for the day at 4:35 p.m.

## **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING**

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

It was moved by Mike Bearden and seconded by Mike Knedler that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

Susan Fischer, representing the Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure program, provided public comment regarding the 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapter 77 rules. She asked the Board to revisit the rules and explained the reasons for her request.

### **Director's Report**

Ryan Wise reported that during the 2015-2016 school year, he visited 58 school districts, six community colleges, two Catholic schools, and the Meskwaki Settlement School. He also visited Iowa Central Community College's fuel testing laboratory, accompanied the Department's bus inspection team to the Saydel Community School District (7,800 school buses are inspected twice a year), and the West Branch Community School District Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) program.

Wise commented on the Department's budget process and work being done on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### **Legislative Report**

Shan Seivert, Legislative Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, provided a final update on the now concluded 2016 legislative session. She highlighted Senate File (SF) 2323, which is the Education Appropriations Bill. Governor Branstad line-item vetoed the suspension of the Board's administrative rules on assessment. The veto will allow the Department to work with school districts to prepare for the new assessment, which will be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year, and promote a successful transition. In the interim, schools will be administering the Iowa Assessments in reading and mathematics in grades 3-8 and 10-11. Schools will also administer the Iowa Assessments in science in grades 5, 8 and 11.

Other items included in SF 2323 that have now been signed into law are the Department's budget, which included a \$250,000 cut to general administration. The Department received \$25,000 for a fine arts mentoring program and was cut \$25,000 from the Commission and Council fund. Also signed into law is a one-year delay on the requirement for the intensive summer literacy program and a one-year delay on third-grade retention. The one-year delay pushes implementation of these provisions to the summer of 2018.

In the Standings Appropriations Bill (House File [HF] 2459), the Governor vetoed the sunset date of July 2018 for the online academies of the CAM and Clayton Ridge Community School Districts. The result is that those programs will continue indefinitely.

In addition, legislation was put forth directing the Department to be in charge of the education portion of the Children's Residential Facilities/Boarding Schools.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mike May made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the consent agenda. There was one opposing vote (Angela English). The motion passed.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Rules: Chapter 17 – Open Enrollment (Notice)**

Phil Wise, Policy Advisor, Division of Policy and Communications, and Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, presented the Chapter 17 rules.

Wise provided background information on the Chapter 17 rules and referenced the antibullying bills that were considered during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 legislative sessions.

The Chapter 17 rules implement HF 2264, which was passed by the 2016 General Assembly and became effective on April 7, 2016. HF 2264 modified the reasons a pupil participating in open enrollment during grades nine through twelve is not subject to the restriction on eligibility to participate in varsity interscholastic athletic contests and athletic competitions during the pupil's first 90 school days of enrollment in the receiving district. The additional reason is if the pupil exercising open enrollment had previously been the subject of a founded case of harassment or bullying in the district of residence.

The other amendments to Chapter 17 are technical or clarifying in nature and designed to update administrative code as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.7(2). Those amendments make no policy changes.

There was discussion regarding what scenario a student would be in that they would not be able to participate in sports right away when moving to a different district, and who will make the decision of bullying and harassment at the resident district.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 17.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 36 – Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition (Notice)**

Phil Wise presented the Chapter 36 rules. The rule implements HF 2264, which was passed by the 2016 General Assembly and became effective on April 7, 2016. HF 2264 modified the reasons a pupil participating in open enrollment during grades nine through twelve is not subject to the restriction on eligibility to participate in varsity interscholastic athletic contests and athletic competitions during the pupil's first 90 school days of enrollment in the receiving district. The additional reason delineated is if the pupil exercising open enrollment had previously been the subject of a founded case of harassment or bullying in the district of residence.

Item 1 of the rules harmonizes Chapter 36 and Chapter 17 with respect to the eligibility of pupils in grades nine through twelve who exercise open enrollment due to a founded incident of harassment or bullying while attending school in the district of residence.

Item 2 of the rules provides that the establishment of a pupil's eligibility to immediately participate in varsity interscholastic athletic contests and competitions due to a founded incident of harassment or bullying while attending school in the district of residence may not be appealed to the executive boards of the Iowa High School Athletic Association or the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union.

**Motion:** Mike Bearden made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board give notice of its intent to amend Chapter 36.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 49 - Individual Career and Academic Plan (Adopted and Filed Emergency)**

Phil Wise and Jeremy Varner presented the Chapter 49 rules. Wise talked about the context of the rules. In HF 2392, the General Assembly amended Iowa Code section 279.61. That amended section requires that all school districts develop, for each student enrolled in grade eight, an individualized career and academic plan, and that such a plan be reviewed and revised each succeeding year until the graduation of that student.

HF 2392 also provided for the immediate enactment of that amendment and granted the Board the authority to implement the amendment to Iowa Code section 279.61 through the emergency rulemaking provisions of Chapter 17A.

Wise explained that emergency rulemaking is necessary so that the rule can go into effect immediately upon adoption by the Board. It is only through that emergency rulemaking that the new system for the individualized career and academic plan can be available for implementation by school districts at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. Wise also explained that these rules are being presented to the Board for Notice that will allow for public comment. This process is called "double-barreling."

Varner talked about the content of the rules. He explained, in detail, what a Career Information and Decision-making System must do in order to be approved.

There was discussion about whether parents are involved in the counseling aspect of the rules, I Have a Plan Iowa (the current career information and decision-making system), whether school districts give an inventory in eighth grade only or are required to do periodic updates, specifics of the career guidance plan, the accuracy of the plan, how many schools are currently doing this and how difficult it will be for them to gear up to get this done by the 2016-2017 school year, role of guidance counselors, and dual enrollment.

**Motion:** Angela English made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board adopt emergency a new Chapter 49, Individual Career and Academic Plan.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Rules: Chapter 49 – Individual Career and Academic Plan (Notice)**

**Motion:** Angela English made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to adopt a new Chapter 49, Individual Career and Academic Plan.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Differentiated Accountability Update**

David Tilly, Deputy Director, and Eric Heitz, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, provided an update on Differentiated Accountability. It was reported that the Department piloted the Differentiated Accountability system with 48 volunteer sites during the 2015-2016 school year. During that time, desk audits were conducted for compliance with all volunteers and 13 intensive onsite visits were conducted: 12 for healthy indicators in assessment and universal instruction, and one for compliance and finance risk indicators.

Tilly provided background information. The Department intends to use ESSA as a vehicle to bring some of the major initiatives together into one coherent package for Iowa's schools. Those initiatives include early literacy, TLC, and Differentiated Accountability.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Basic Tenets of Differentiated Accountability
- What Differentiated Accountability Is and Is Not
- Pilot for the 2015-2016 School Year
- Continuous Improvement Process
- Statewide School Improvement Team
- 2015-2016 School Year: Program and Fiscal Indicators
- Intensive Visit
- District Participants (15-20 people)
- Tools

There was discussion about whether the 48 volunteer districts are a cross section of districts, how high- and low-performing districts are determined, makeup of the teams and turnover, how many districts will receive an intensive visit, how it is determined whether this system is working, whether all districts use the same literacy assessment, what the most common problems are found in districts, whether differentiated accountability can be applied to other areas besides literacy, whether focus groups are used with this initiative, and legislative priorities.

## **Department Budgeting and Finances**

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, presented detail on the Department's budget and agency finances. A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Total Department Spending – All Sectors
- Department Administrative Spending – Staff and Programs
- State Administrative Spending
- Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2017
- Long-Term View

## **Board Reports**

Mike Knedler has been participating in the social studies standards development process. He also listened to an ESSA webinar. He plans to attend the Iowa Arts Education Summit.

Mary Ellen Miller shared an article on TLC that was featured in her local newspaper and she also talked about rural schools.

Bettie Bolar will be a speaker at a HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) graduation in Marshalltown.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the business meeting at 10:50 a.m.

## **State Board Retreat (continued)**

### **Appeals Process Review**

Mike May explained the purpose of this agenda item and talked about the Board's concern with the appeal process and what the Board can do to help children in bullying and harassment situations.

Nicole Proesch, Legal Counsel, Office of the Director, presented a PowerPoint that addressed the following:

- Recap of Open Enrollment Appeals
- Scope of Review
- Harassment Criteria
- Iowa Code
- Criteria Changes

There was discussion about changing the bullying and harassment law, moving the opening enrollment application deadline date, whether it would be possible to change the criteria without changing the law, school climate, meeting with the Iowa Association of School Boards to see how they handle bullying and harassment cases and to determine how big the problem actually is, whether the law is the impediment or if there is something else the Board can do besides changing the law to enhance the Board's ability to help kids, what the Board can do to help local boards, and whether there are options to condense the amount of time it takes for an appeal to be acted upon.

There was additional discussion about requiring teachers to be mandatory reporters of bullying and harassment incidents, whether there is a way to make this type of situation more equitable for both districts, rural districts' concern with student flight, the state's responsibility to school districts so they can operate effectively, school districts' latitude even if a student doesn't fit the open enrollment law criteria, whether the criteria is in law, frustration with the law when it comes to siblings, and the need for parents to understand the open enrollment law and process.

## **State Board Support and Liaison, Meeting Schedule (Master Calendar, Dates, and Locations), and State Board Professional Development**

Ryan Wise indicated that because of budget constraints, the liaison position to the Board will not be filled at this time. The Department, however, will take a collaborative approach to ensure the Board continues to receive the same level of support. There was discussion regarding what support the Board needs to be effective.

There was also discussion regarding the Board's Master Calendar, 2017 meeting dates, future meeting locations, and professional development opportunities for Board members.

### **Finalize Board Priorities**

Ryan Wise recapped the takeaways of the Board's discussion relating to its priorities. Board members discussed in detail their 2016-2017 priorities. There was general consensus that the following priorities would remain the same and additional priorities on education and workforce alignment (including the role of Iowa's community colleges) and possibly safe and rich learning environments will be added:

- Reducing Achievement Gaps
- Assessments
- Iowa Academic Standards
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

### **Closing Remarks**

Charlie Edwards provided closing remarks and talked about the progress the Board has made this past year.

Ryan Wise shared closing remarks and thanked Board members and Department staff for their efforts.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

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Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President

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Ryan M. Wise  
Director