

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Retreat/Meeting
June 11-12, 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

Brad A. Buck
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education retreat/meeting was held on Thursday, June 11, and Friday, June 12, 2015, at the Des Moines Area Community College. The following State Board of Education members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Rosie Hussey, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Mike May, Mike Bearden, Angela English, Brooke Axiotis, and Mary Ellen Miller. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Brad Buck, Ryan Wise, Mary Delagardelle, Jay Pennington, Shan Seivert, Nicole Proesch, Jeff Berger, Staci Hupp, Phil Wise, Jeremy Varner, Amy Williamson, Larry Bice, Rita Martens, Brad Niebling, Sandra Dop, Sarah Brown, David Tilly, Matt Ludwig, Pradeep Kotamraju, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: Frank Hilton; Jodi Grover; Kim Carson; Mackenzie Ryan, Des Moines Register; MacKenzie Bills, LS2 group; Tim Crellin, Legislative Services Agency; Jeff Moorman; Heather Stancil; Scott Russell; Todd Shafer; Tom O'Donnell; Chris Mitchell, ACT; and Michelle Crystal.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

Welcome – Goals of the Retreat

Charlie Edwards welcomed State Board of Education (Board) members and talked about the goals and objectives of the retreat.

Brad Buck, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department) shared comments. He talked about the format of the retreat and the success of the Board's involvement with specific priorities.

Macro-View of Education in Iowa

Enrollment and Demographic Data and Student Performance

David Tilly, Deputy Director, and Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis, shared information on enrollment and demographic data and student performance.

Board members participated in an activity where they discussed their experience regarding the following questions:

- What has been the trend in enrollment over the past 30 years (public/private)?
- What has been the trend in district size (number of districts by different sizes)?
- What has been the trend in racial/ethnic diversity?
- What has been the trend related to students living in poverty?

Data were presented that addressed the questions and Board members compared their experiences with the actual data and shared what they learned.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Public School Enrollment Trends (select years)
- School District Shifts
- Demographic Changes
- Free or Reduced Meal Eligibility
- Percent of Students in Subgroups

Board members participated in another activity where they discussed what they knew about the gaps in achievement between the following groups and all students:

- Students Who Are Racially/Ethnically Different
- Students With Disabilities
- Students Who Are Second Language Learners
- Students Living in Poverty

The PowerPoint presentation continued and addressed the following information.

- Iowa Assessments Grade 4 Reading Percent Proficient Gaps 2012 through 2014
- Iowa Assessments Grade 8 Mathematics Percent Proficient Gaps 2012 through 2014
- Iowa Assessments Grade 11 Mathematics Percent Proficient Gaps 2012 through 2014
- Reading Grade 4 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Achievement Levels by Race 2013
- NAEP Reading Grade 4 – White – Hispanic Gap – Average Scale Score: 2003-2013
- Iowa Assessments Grade 4 – National School Lunch Program Gap – Average Scale Score: 2012-2014

Board members discussed what they learned from the data provided.

Early Childhood Education

Mary Delagardelle, Associate Division Administrator, Division of Learning and Results, provided an update on early childhood education. She provided an overview of the structure and role of the early childhood education system and discussed current and future work.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Early Childhood Iowa System
- What Early Childhood Represents
- Department of Education Program Responsibilities
- Program and Learning Standards
- Child Care Program Transition to the Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Child Care and Education
- Early Literacy – Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IDGIs) Data for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015

There was discussion regarding the child care program transition to DHS, licensing of preschool teachers, and the difference between Head Start, Shared Visions, and the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children.

Funding

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, provided an overview of school finance. A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Fiscal Year 2015 Big Picture
- Formula Goals
- Basics
- School Foundation Formula
- Spending Authority
- Unspent Authorized Budget Report
- Spending Authority Components
- Instructional Support
- Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children
- School Foundation Formula
- Fiscal Year 2015 State Cost Per Pupil Amounts
- Additional Levy
- Property Tax Replacement Payment – Fiscal Year 2015
- Discretionary – Non General Fund
- Changes Over Past Several Years
- State Percent of Growth Rates and State Cost Per Pupil Amounts Fiscal Year 1994 to Fiscal Year 2015
- State Percent of Growth History
- Comparison to Other States – National Center for Education Statistics
- Comparison to Other States – National Education Association

There was discussion regarding the importance of local school boards and communities understanding the complexity of school finance.

Differentiated Accountability and the Role of the Board in Accountability and Accreditation

Jeff Berger and Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, shared information on the differentiated accountability model and how finance is working within that model.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Differentiated Accountability (Accreditation and Support)
- School Improvement Past
- School Improvement Future: Differentiated Accountability
- Tiered Supports
- Healthy Indicators
- Earned Autonomy
- Collaborative Inquiry Questions
- Single Continuous Improvement Process
- Streamlined Reporting
- Emphasis on Results
- What Does This Mean?
- What is the State Board's Role?
- How Does Finance Fit In?

There was discussion regarding who would have access to the differentiated reporting document, the Department's/Board's authority, whether challenges exist for rural districts trying to meet the required paperwork through this reporting system, and the Board's ability to influence change.

State Board of Education Priority Review

Assessment

Mary Ellen Miller and David Tilly provided an update on the Board's priority of assessment. Miller shared background information relating to how the Assessment Task Force arrived at its recommendation for a new accountability assessment tool for Iowa.

Miller talked about the status of initiatives included in the 2013 education reform package (early literacy, the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system, and rigorous education standards). This effort also recognized the need for an accountability system that ensured Iowa tax dollars were being spent effectively. To address this need, the 2013 Legislature organized an Assessment Task Force to recommend a new assessment for Iowa to be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year.

Miller talked about the membership and work of the 21-member Assessment Task Force as well as the process used in selecting an assessment. The task force submitted their final recommendation to the Legislature at the end of 2014. Responding to the Iowa Code requirements for action, the Board endorsed the task force's recommendation at the January

2015 meeting and forwarded this concurrence to the General Assembly. Two primary concerns of the General Assembly were cost and data security. The General Assembly ended with no further action on the Board's recommendation.

Tilly detailed the governance statutes related to education accountability and presented historical documentation of the Board's authority in relation to accountability. Specifically, he addressed the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that was renamed to No Child Left Behind in 2001. One keystone of that reauthorization was bringing higher levels of accountability into the system.

Tilly talked about the No Child Left Behind Accountability Workbook, its components, and the entity in each state that was responsible to enter into agreement on education accountability with the federal government. In 2002 and 2003, when Iowa's initial accountability workbook was negotiated with the federal government, the Legislature was not involved in the accountability issues and there was no Iowa Code language saying the Legislature was going to choose the assessment or be a part of the accountability plan. The accountability workbook was created through interactions between the Department and Board.

On April 10-11, 2003, the Board was asked to consider taking action supporting Iowa's NCLB accountability plan and encouraged timely approval by the United States Department of Education. A draft position statement was presented to the Board that ultimately voted to adopt the proposed position statement for a matter of record in support of the NCLB plan for Iowa. Tilly read excerpts from the proposed position statement. It was clear at that time that the Board was exercising their authority in this matter.

Tilly reviewed excerpts from Senate File 2284, which removed the Board's authority to make the assessment decision. Tilly then reviewed language in Iowa Code section 256.7(21)(b), which implies that the authority reverts back to the Board in 2016.

In summary, according to Iowa Code, a new accountability assessment needs to be implemented in Iowa in the spring of 2017 and the Board has the authority to select that assessment, and enact their selection through the administrative rules review process.

Tilly explained that a new assessment is needed so that it will align to the standards.

Iowa Core

Mike Knedler talked about his experience and the development of the Iowa Core. David Tilly, Rita Martens, Lead Consultant, Brad Niebling, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, and Brad Buck provided an update on the Board's priority of the Iowa Core. They discussed early standards work, development of the Iowa Core, and fine arts and the Iowa Core.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Iowa's History
- Iowa Core = High Expectations
- Iowa Core Changes Over the Years

- 2006: Senate File 245
- 2008: Senate File 588
- 2009: Senate File 2216
- Fine Arts Information

Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, and Matt Ludwig, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, provided an update on the Board's priority of Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation.

Bice reported on the following Indicators of Progress:

- More rigorous standards have been approved and implemented.
- Annual reports, tied to preparation standards, provide yearly data-based progress indicators for all educator preparation programs.
- An annual report on the "Condition of Educator Preparation" is published using data from the preparation program annual reports and information gathered by Department staff through other means.

Bice also reported on the follow-up visits that are conducted with each institution one year after their accreditation review or as needed; updating 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 77 standards, Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium standards, and leadership preparation standards.

Reducing Achievement Gaps (with a focus on Multi-Tiered System of Supports and Early Literacy)

David Tilly and Sarah Brown, Chief, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, provided an update on the Board's priority of Reducing Achievement Gaps. Retention requirements of the early literacy implementation rule and current data were discussed. Examples of best practices were shared as well as upcoming support.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Big Ideas of Iowa Code Chapter 279.68
- Retention
- Retention – Good Cause Exemptions
- Current Data: FAST Assessment
- Percent of Students Tested
- Percent of Students Meeting Targets: Composite
- Percent of Students Meeting Targets: aReading
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports is About Resources
- Targeted Interventions
- Types of Interventions
- What we Know
- Return on Investment
- Support Provided
- Celebrating Iowa's Success - November 5, 2015

Competency-based Education

Sandra Dop, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, provided an update on the Board's priority of Competency-based Education (CBE).

Angela English described what her children do in a traditional school setting, how they learn, how they demonstrate what they've learned, how she's involved in their learning, and how the community is involved in their learning. Dop responded to the same questions for students that are in a CBE environment.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Traditional and CBE
- Principles of CBE
- Characteristics of CBE Systems
- Competencies
- Complex Communication Scoring Document
- Framework in Year 3
- Elements
- Next Steps for the State Board

Rosie Hussey asked for additional information regarding area education agencies (AEAs) and schools participating in CBE across Iowa, the ten districts that are part of the CBE collaborative, barriers, and when there will be a model district to be observed.

Additional Considerations (Summer Learning Programs, Iowa Learning Online, Career and Technical Education Reform)

Career and Technical Education Reform

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, shared information about secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) reform. He provided an update on the work of the CTE Task Force. This task force was assembled as a result of 2013 legislation to study how secondary CTE is delivered in the state and to make recommendations to ensure that consistent access to high-quality opportunities that align with high-demand career pathways are being provided.

Varner described CTE and indicated that it (vocational education - as referred to in Iowa Code) has not been reviewed in approximately 20 years. In the early 1990's, Senate File 449 was the last piece of state legislation that dealt with vocational education and the intent was never fully delivered on. He addressed the need for change in this area.

Varner also indicated that Iowa is a leader in concurrent enrollment and talked about the advantages of this program.

The CTE Task Force has been working to develop recommendations which will be presented to the Board. There will be the potential to develop a legislative proposal from the Department

related to secondary CTE reform that is linked to these recommendations. Varner described some of the main ideas that will be included in the recommendations which includes career guidance, work-based learning, CTE programming based on career pathways, improving CTE instructor numbers and quality through flexible licensing options and targeted CTE subject-specific professional development, and the regionalization of CTE through center-based career academies.

Charlie Edwards talked about the role of the Community College Council and its ability to drill down on the above recommendations and to share their perspective to the Board.

Iowa Learning Online

Ryan Wise, Deputy Director, provided an update on Iowa Learning Online (ILO). He reminded the Board that ILO had been a priority in the past, but last year the Board decided to take a more integrated approach to technology across the five priority areas and not have ILO as a stand-alone priority.

Wise reported on 2015 legislative activity for ILO stating that the program was fully funded at \$1.5 million next year and the legislation included non-reversion language, which will allow for carryover of funds to the next fiscal year.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- ILO Service
- Partnering with ILO
- Courses Offered by ILO
- ILO Growth
- Quality - Convenience - No Cost

Summer Learning

David Tilly reported that schools are required to offer intensive summer literacy programs starting with the 2017 school year. The Iowa Reading Research Center was directed to provide guidance and parameters that would define intensive summer literacy programs. Rules are being developed and will be brought to the Board for consideration.

Rosie Hussey provided additional comments relating to summer learning.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the retreat for the day at 5:15 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The agenda was amended by adding board reports (item number 7).

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

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

Frank Hilton provided public comment regarding adding a consumer advocate for students staff position within the Department.

Scott Russell provided public comment regarding Smarter Balanced Assessments. He requested that more research be done around the cost benefit analysis of the Smarter Balanced Assessments versus the Iowa Assessments.

Todd Shafer provided public comment regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the legislative process, and cost.

Jeff Moorman provided public comment regarding concern that the Smarter Balanced Assessment may not be the best assessment for Iowa and what can be learned from other states.

Heather Stancil provided public comment regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment and the current law regarding the assessment provider.

Director's Report

Brad Buck talked about his experience as the Department's director, work on the current initiatives, and moving forward.

Legislative Update

Shan Seivert, Policy Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, reported that the 2015 legislative session ended on June 5. Department staff will review the bills that impact the Department, determine if Board rulemaking or Iowa Code changes are needed, and develop guidance to the field as required.

Seivert provided an update on the following:

- Education Appropriations
- General Administration
- Early Warning System
- IHAPI (I Have a Plan Iowa)
- Technical Assistance to Districts in Implementing and Evaluating the Teacher Leadership and Compensation System
- Attendance Center Rankings
- Gap Tuition Assistance Program
- Supplemental Assistance for High Need Schools
- Anti-bullying

There was discussion regarding the Department's staffing levels, the Legislature's objections to the bullying bill, and the status of the appropriations bill.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mike May made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Science Standards Update

David Tilly and Rita Martens provided an update on the work of the Science Standards Review Team and next steps. Martens talked about the work of the review team that is in the process of finalizing their report that will be presented to the Board.

There was discussion about whether there had been any feedback from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) organization regarding efforts to make the middle school grade specific versus the range the NGSS suggests.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Amendment Approval for Grant Wood AEA

Jeff Berger reported information on the budget amendment for Grant Wood AEA. Since the approval of the fiscal year 2016 budget on March 26, 2015, the AEA had a lease approval for a new facility. The original approval was for the fiscal year 2014 budget year. The Department granted approval for a one-time payment of the base rent for approximately 800 square feet of space in the new Regional Center in Coralville to service the southern area of the AEA. The base rent covers the entire term of the lease that shall expire on June 29, 2064. Berger explained the legality of the 52-year lease.

Motion: Mike Bearden made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board approve the AEA budget amendment for Grant Wood AEA for fiscal year 2016.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the long-range responsibility of the lease.

Board Reports

Brooke Axiotis attended a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) regional meeting in Kearney, Nebraska. She is currently serving on NASBE's board as a senior new member representative.

Diane Crookham-Johnson attended an event showcasing/demonstrating competency-based education at the Oskaloosa High School.

Mike May participated on community forums on a Physical Plant and Equipment Levy issue in the Okoboji Community School District.

Mary Ellen Miller talked about the value of community colleges.

Mike Knedler will be serving on NASBE's finance committee.

Angela English plans to attend the NASBE New Member Institute in July.

Rosie Hussey attended the Community College Council meeting.

Mike Bearden has been visiting communities and sharing information regarding the Board's role.

The Board business meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

State Board Retreat (continued)

Ryan Wise facilitated the priority selection process. Board members worked in their priority work group areas and discussed the following:

- 1) What they heard yesterday
- 2) What it made them think about
 - a. Level of prioritization
 - b. Goal, Indicators of Progress, and Board Support Activities

The current priority areas and work groups are:

- Competency-based Education – Angela English and Rosie Hussey
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation – Mike Bearden and Rosie Hussey
- Reducing Achievement Gaps (with a focus on Multi-tiered System of Supports and Early Literacy) – Brooke Axiotis, Diane Crookham-Johnson, and Mike May
- Assessment – Charlie Edwards and Mary Ellen Miller
- Iowa Core – Brad Buck, Mike Knedler, and Hannah Rens

Board members were also asked to discuss where Career and Technical Education reform, online learning, and summer learning fit into the Board's priorities.

Each work group reported out and shared the rationale for the priorities selected. The following priorities were identified:

- Reducing Achievement Gaps (with a focus on Multi-Tiered System of Supports and Early Literacy)
- Assessment
- Iowa Core
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation
- Innovative Learning Opportunities
 - Competency-based Education (continue to monitor and support)
 - Online Learning
 - Summer Learning
 - Career and Technical Education

Mike Knedler and Mary Ellen Miller announced the community colleges will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in February 2016. There was discussion regarding possible ways the Board could be involved in this event.

Mary Ellen Miller distributed a legislative directory to each Board member.

Review 2016 State Board Meeting Dates

Ryan Wise presented the 2016 meeting dates and addressed the Board's desire to meet at different locations around the state either in the course of a formal meeting or create other opportunities for listening tour type events.

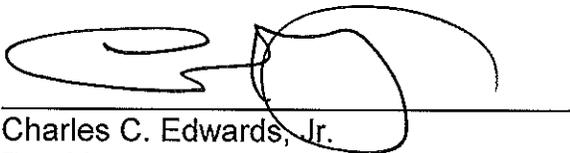
Closing Remarks

Charlie Edwards provided closing remarks. He applauded Director Buck for the positive impact he has had on education in Iowa.

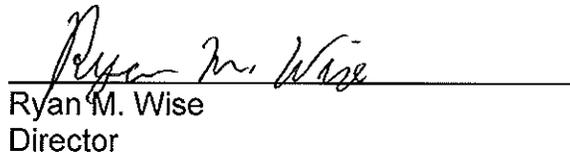
Brad Buck shared comments about his experience at the Department and working with the Board. He indicated that he appreciates the Board's thoughtful, careful approach to decision making and the desire to be informed about the issues as well as the intended consequences of the actions and thinking through potential unintended consequences of actions. He talked about the work of the Board over the next few years and the important decisions to be made.

Edwards thanked Board members and Department staff for their work.

The retreat adjourned at 11:10 a.m.



Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President



Ryan M. Wise
Director