

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
May 14, 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 meeting was held on Thursday, May 14, 2015, in the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Mike Bearden, Angela English, Rosie Hussey, Mike May, and Mary Ellen Miller. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Brad Buck, Ryan Wise, Staci Hupp, Jeff Berger, David Tilly, Nicole Proesch, Carole Richardson, Beth Happe, Phil Wise, Larry Bice, Shan Seivert, Jeremy Varner, Brad Niebling, Eric St Clair, Alex Harris, Janet Boyd, Jay Pennington, Thomas Mayes, Kent Farver, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: D.T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; Linda Allen and Jane Bradley, Hawkeye Community College; Paula Armstrong, Maharishi University of Management; Heather Stancil; Jeff Moorman; Jodi Grover; Stuart Fuhs, Kollin Brownell, Kameryn Ingels, Mary Ann Munger, Mary Michels, and Steve Milder, West Central Community School District; Larry Clayton, Ankeny; Tonya Eaton, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School; Colleen Heinz, Iowa State Education Association; Michelle Hosp, Iowa Reading Research Center; Amy Hutchison, Iowa State University; Linda Fandel, Governor's Office; and M.J. Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

State Board Work Session - Approval Process for Out-of-State Online Educator Preparation Programs

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, led a work session on the approval process for out-of-state online educator preparation programs. Federal Department of Education regulations (34 CFR § 600.9) require an institution that offers online courses and programs, including educator preparation programs, to be registered with each state in which students of the programs reside, if the state requires that the institution be registered in that state. Iowa Code chapter 261B, as modified effective July 1, 2009, requires an institution that maintains or conducts a course of instruction in Iowa, including through distance education, to register with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

Bice presented a PowerPoint that addressed the following:

- Statutory Requirements
- Department/State Board Responsibilities
- Process

There was discussion regarding how difficult it is for programs to get approved in their respective state. There was also discussion regarding the Board's wish for data to measure the success/failure of online programs. The Board discussed how information can be gathered and what authority the Board has to affect change with out-of-state programs. The Board also discussed the capacity of the Department of Education (Department) to gather and analyze data concerning out-of-state programs. Director Brad Buck indicated that the Department will take this matter under advisement and work to get the Board additional information in the context of the Department's current capacity.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETNG

State Board President Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

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

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

Jeff Moorman provided public comment opposing the Smarter Balanced Assessments. A few of the reasons cited were the costs of implementation, training of teachers, additional time required to take the assessment versus other assessments that are available, issues with the assessment in itself, lack of data indicating the success of the assessment, and concerns across the nation including technological issues. He indicated he knows parents, teachers, and administrators that are also opposed.

Heather Stancil provided public comment opposing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Her concern is that the standards contain a great deal of information on engineering and there is a lot of difference between science and engineering. This also puts a burden on teachers to teach an expertise they don't have. She recommended that the science standards be focused on science and not engineering.

Larry Clayton provided public comment regarding elementary reading curriculum. He recommended that the Board hold a series of forums around the state to hear concerns parents have regarding what their children are being taught.

On May 13, 2015, Board members received a petition from a group called "Climate Parents" supporting the NGSS, which they stated had nearly 400 signatures.

Written comments were distributed that were received from 15 members of the General Assembly opposing the NGSS.

Director's Report

Brad Buck reported that a collective group of representatives from various organizations were working on a common definition for college and career readiness. There is a high level of commitment to ensure that a definition is developed for Iowa. Once an agreed upon draft is developed, it will be vetted through the involved organizations. Ultimately, it will be brought to the Board for approval.

Buck also provided an update on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Legislative Update

Shan Seivert, Legislative Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, provided a legislative update. The Governor's anti-bullying bill passed the floor of the Senate and the House Education Committee and has been placed on the House calendar for unfinished business.

The Governor's broadband expansion bill has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee and passed on the House floor. It's been sent to the Senate Ways and Means Committee and has been assigned to a subcommittee.

At this time, both chambers are considering a 1.25 percent growth increase plus one-time funding of \$55 million, which would equal 2.625 percent for Supplemental State Aid for fiscal year 2016. The Governor is encouraging the General Assembly to develop a two-year budget. Supplemental State Aid needs to be determined in order for funding to be allocated in other areas.

There was discussion regarding the impact on districts that the uncertainty of the Supplemental State Aid amount is causing.

The education appropriations budgets for fiscal year 2016 have been assigned to a conference committee. The Senate budget was \$341.35 million and the House budget was \$314.95 million.

Seivert talked in detail about the implications of the proposed funding cuts for the following areas:

- Department's General Administrative Funds
- Early Warning System
- Iowa Learning Online
- IHAPI (I Have a Plan Iowa)
- Technical assistance to districts implementing the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system and the statewide evaluation of the system

There was discussion regarding the proposed funding cuts to Iowa Learning Online and the Department's General Administrative Funds.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mike Bearden moved and Mary Ellen Miller seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

It was reported that St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School will need to notify the Department when they want to add a grade, but that Board action will not be required.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Northeast Iowa Charter High School-Request for Change in Charter

Janet Boyd, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, reported that the West Central Community School District received approval in 2005 for Northeast Iowa Charter High School. The charter was renewed in 2009 and 2012 and the goals were revised in 2005 from the original charter. The district was seeking to convert the existing high school and the existing charter into a single charter school. This would replace the existing structure, which includes both the traditional high school and the school within-a-school charter.

Boyd recommended that the Northeast Iowa Charter High School and the West Central Community School District be allowed to convert the existing 9-12 West Central High School and the existing Northeast Iowa Charter High School to a single charter high school.

Boyd introduced charter representatives: Stuart Fuhs, Steve Milder, Kollin Brownell, Kameryn Ingels, Mary Michels, and Mary Ann Munger. Boyd and charter school representatives talked in detail about the benefits of the charter.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the Northeast Iowa Charter High School and West Central Community School District be allowed to convert the 9-12 high school to a 9-12 charter school.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Practitioner Preparation Program Approval - Maharishi University of Management

Larry Bice provided background information on the Maharishi University of Management (MUM) Practitioner Preparation Program. The preliminary review was done in September 2014 and the site visit was in October 2014. The traditional secondary practitioner education program and the alternative licensure intern programs were reviewed. As a result of the Department and institution's analysis, MUM decided not to seek accreditation of their alternative licensure intern program. Prior to the site visit, MUM decided to end their elementary education program as well.

The traditional secondary practitioner education program met the 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 79 program approval standards. The standards are: Governance and Resources, Diversity, Faculty, Assessment, Teacher Education Clinical, and Teacher Education Curriculum. Bice reviewed the final team report and indicated there were several issues and concerns that had been resolved.

There was discussion about whether the issues being brought before the Board were the same issues identified when the institution was accredited seven years ago, whether the university sees a conflict in the way science and math are taught, the Board's approval options, how the Board's action will affect students in the program, the number of students that are currently enrolled in the program, and tracking of students. The Board discussed the number and significance of the findings in the report. The Board discussed the options of full approval and conditional approval.

Motion: Rosie Hussey made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board grant Maharishi University of Management Teacher Preparation Program a one-year conditional approval.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Board Reports

Mary Ellen Miller attended meetings at the capitol regarding assessment.

Rosie Hussey talked to Linda Fandel regarding the Department director search.

Charlie Edwards talked to Linda Fandel regarding the Department director search. He distributed a draft of the upcoming 2015 Board retreat agenda and Ryan Wise discussed the content. Board members provided input to the draft agenda.

Edwards also made a presentation at the Iowa Association for Colleges of Teacher Education where he talked about the role of the Board and the importance of that role and how the system is being changed.

Mike Knedler attended a Community College Council meeting. Community Colleges are planning a 50th anniversary celebration February 23 -24, 2016, at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines. This event will be in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees Conference.

Mike May talked to Linda Fandel and provided input to the Department's director search. He also attended the Governor's signing of the school start date bill.

Angela English attended a Grade-Level Reading meeting.

Graduation Rate Update and Discussion on Closing the Achievement Gap Report

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, presented highlights of the *Closing Achievement Gaps: Report to the Iowa Legislature*. This report provides information on students in Iowa's schools for the 2014-15 school year, the latest Iowa assessment achievement results for the 2013-14 school year, and a new set of data that focuses on the Iowa TIER system.

Pennington presented a PowerPoint that addressed the following:

- Enrollment Trends
- Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch
- Percent of Students in Subgroups
- 2013-2014 Reading Proficiency
- 2014-2015 Early Literacy Results - Percent of Students Meeting Benchmark
- Early Warning System

Pennington also provided an update regarding the graduation rate information that was released in April 2015.

There was discussion about the Board's priority of reducing the achievement gap and whether or not the gap is being reduced.

Faith Baptist Bible College Educator Preparation Program Accreditation Follow-up Review

Larry Bice reported that the Faith Baptist Bible College Educator Preparation Program was reviewed in February 2014 and approved by the Board on September 18, 2014. A follow-up review of the concerns identified in the final report was conducted on January 29, 2015.

Bice reviewed the report from the follow-up visit. The Board discussed concerns that needed follow-up and shared evidence of compliance. The identified issues dealt with the program's conceptual framework, faculty overload, and clinical experiences. The Board accepted the report.

Science Standards Review

David Tilly, Deputy Director, indicated that pursuant to Governor Branstad's Executive Order 83 a Science Standards Review Team was convened that reviewed the current science standards and possible alternative standards.

Brad Niebling, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, reported that the review team will be recommending that the Board adopt the NGSS with modifications as Iowa's new science standards. The team's recommendation proposes modifying the NGSS for Iowa by assigning standards to grades 6, 7, and 8 instead of leaving them as a 6-8 grade span (grades K-5 are already grade-specific and grades 9-12 would be left as a grade

span). The recommendation also proposes modifying the NGSS for Iowa so that only the performance expectations section is used as the standards rather than the entire document.

The review team's recommendation was based on the expertise of members and feedback from approximately 2,600 Iowans gathered through public forums and a statewide survey.

Niebling indicated that the review team is diligently working on writing the report which will be presented to the Board for consideration.

There was discussion regarding how the performance expectations compare to the literacy and math standards, whether the Board will have an opportunity to review the public input, how school districts will ensure every student meets these standards, whether the NGSS have been compared to the current standards, and concern that students will take soft science courses versus hard science courses.

Iowa Reading Research Center and Intensive Summer Reading

David Tilly introduced Michelle Hosp, Director, Iowa Reading Research Center, and Amy Hutchison, Associate Professor, Iowa State University, who provided an update on the Iowa Reading Research Center and summer literacy programs.

The presentation focused on the following:

- Review of requirements for schools by 2017
- Current status of the development of criteria and guidelines for the Intensive Summer Reading Program
- Data shared by superintendents from fall 2014
- Data from Landscape Assessment commissioned by the Iowa Reading Research Center with Iowa State University, The University of Iowa, and the University of Northern Iowa

Assessment Update and Discussion

David Tilly and Mary Ellen Miller provided a status report regarding assessment. Tilly indicated that the Assessment Task Force completed their work and submitted it to the Legislature on December 31, 2014. Since then, there has been a lot of communication and discussion. He met multiple times with both the House and Senate Education Committees. Members of the task force testified to those groups as well and there have been multiple additional meetings with individual members of the Legislature and caucus staff.

To date, there has not been any legislative action. No action means that all options are still on the table. The big issues are cost and student data privacy.

Tilly also provided an update on the task force's recommendation dealing with statewide assessment of science. The recommendation reads:

Through a unanimous vote, the task force recommends that the task force should be reconvened as soon as the new science standards are approved and new assessments are available for review (and in the meantime, continue with the current assessment).

Miller talked about communication with legislators, cost, vendor selection, and technology readiness.

There was discussion about whether districts would need to purchase both the formative and summative assessments, urgency, and next steps.

Hawkeye Community College Interim Accreditation Report - Fiscal Year 2015

Mike Knedler introduced Linda Allen, President, Hawkeye Community College. Allen is also the newest member of the Community College Council. Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, introduced Jane Bradley, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Hawkeye Community College.

The Department conducted the on-site portion of the evaluation on February 18-19, 2015. The interim report focuses on compliance issues. No instances of noncompliance or issues were found during the visit.

Hawkeye Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a commission of the North Central Association. The state accreditation process reviews state requirements, but does not duplicate the HLC process. HLC documentation is reviewed during the visit to identify any follow up that may be required. State standards are reviewed through a structured process by Department staff and community college peer reviewers.

Farver indicated that a number of strengths and best practices were identified during the visit. They include the use and consistency of the nondiscrimination statement, use of data and accessibility at the college for making decisions, dashboards, facilities plan, use of School Dude software, and Hawkeye's teaching and learning center.

Bradley and Allen provided comments about the process.

There was discussion regarding cooperation with colleges and universities as students advance to that level.

Motion: Rosie Hussey made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board grant continued accreditation for Hawkeye Community College. A state comprehensive visit accreditation evaluation will be conducted in fiscal year 2020.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Community Colleges Adult Education and Literacy Annual Report - Program Year 2014 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014)

Kent Farver and Alex Harris, Adult Education Administrative Consultant and State Director for Adult Education, Bureau of Community Colleges, provided an overview of the *Adult Education and Literacy Annual Report Program Year 2014*.

Farver indicated that 2014 was the first year there was a state appropriation dedicated to adult literacy. In addition, adult literacy is part of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, which replaced the Workforce Investment Act. Moving forward there will be several changes and a lot of emphasis on this as part of the career pathways.

Harris shared highlights of the report and talked about progress the program made in 2014. Specifically, he addressed Statewide Leadership Projects (College and Career Readiness Standards, Student Achievement in Reading [STAR]), Adult Education and Literacy Student Profile, Core Measures (English Literacy or English as-a-Second Language statistics), Educational Functioning Levels Indicator Comparison, Core Outcome Measure – Awarded Secondary Diploma, and Enrollment in Postsecondary Outcomes.

Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report – Fiscal Year 2016

Kent Farver explained that the Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report is required by Iowa Code and that the Iowa Department of Management coordinates the process. The Board is required to approve the budgets each year by June 1.

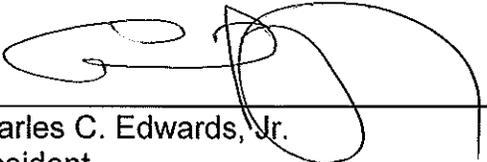
Farver reviewed the budget process, purpose, and what information is included in the report. The report is a means for community colleges to set their property tax levies and to also set expenditure limits for the year. This report is not a financial statement.

A subcommittee of community college business officers is working with the Department of Management to see if the reporting process can be adjusted to better align with the way community colleges do their financial reporting.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board approve the community college certified budgets as provided.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.



Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President



Brad A. Buck
Director