Minutes
State Board of Education
May 15, 2014

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 15, 2014, in the Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Rosie Hussey, Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Mike May, Mike Bearden, Angela English, Brooke Axiotis, Mary Ellen Miller, and Hannah Rens. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Brad Buck, Ryan Wise, Nicole Proesch, Jeff Berger, Mary Delagardelle, Staci Hupp, Jeremy Varner, Phil Wise, Larry Bice, Max Christensen, Thomas Mayes, Marietta Rives, Jennifer Adkins, Alex Harris, Matt Ludwig, Eric Heitz, Kent Farver, Isbelia Arzola, Beth Happe, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Amy Stegeman, Phyllis Hinton, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: D.T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; John Parker, Legislative Services Agency; Christy Wolfe, Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education/Coe College; Stephen Babe, Students First; Laurie Phelan, Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates; Dick McWilliams, Dottie Van Hooser, Becky Tarbell, and Dave Darnell, Grand View Christian School; Norene Bundt, Barb Gayle, Jerry Kember, and Rhonda Rabbitt, Viterbo University; and Analisa Peerson, Iowa Department of Public Health.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION

Director Brad Buck welcomed new and current State Board members and they introduced themselves.

Ryan Wise, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the orientation work session.

Mary Delagardelle, Associate Division Administrator, Division of Learning and Results, talked about the role of the State Board of Education (Board) and the difference between the Board and local school boards. She asked the Board to review and discuss a section in a document titled "Leadership for Student Learning: Recognizing the State's Role in a Public Education."

Delagardelle also asked the Board to review a document titled "Roles and Responsibilities" and to share comments. This document describes some of the specific duties of the Board and local boards.

Nicole Proesch, Attorney, Office of the Director, reviewed the Iowa administrative rule-making process (regular, emergency, and petition). She also reviewed the State Board appeal process.

Brad Buck provided an introduction to the Department of Education's (Department) areas of focus.

Mary Delagardelle talked about the structure and work of the Division of Learning and Results. The bureaus in this division include: Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, Bureau of Educator Quality, Bureau of School Improvement, and Bureau of Information and Analysis Services.

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, shared information about the work units in the Division of School Finance and Support Services. The work units are: Bureau of Information Technology Services; Bureau of Finance, Facilities, Operation and Transportation Services; Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services; and the Office of Internal Administrative Services.

Ryan Wise shared information about the Division of Policy and Communications. The work units in this division include: communications, policy, teacher leadership, and Iowa Learning Online.

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, reviewed the work of that division. The bureaus in this area include: Bureau of Career and Technical Education and the Bureau of Community Colleges.

D.T. Magee, Executive Director, Board of Educational Examiners, talked about the work of that agency.

Nicole Proesch provided an overview of parliamentary procedures and reviewed Iowa Code section 256.3.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Director Brad Buck called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

New Board members introduced themselves. The new members are: Brooke Axiotis of Des Moines, Mike Bearden of Gladbrook, Angela English of Dyersville, Mary Ellen Miller of Mason City and Wayne County, and Hannah Rens of Sioux City.

It was moved by Mike May and seconded by Charlie Edwards that the May agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rosie Hussey nominated Charlie Edwards of Des Moines for president of the State Board. Mike May seconded. Charlie Edwards accepted the nomination and nominations ceased.

Edwards was elected president and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Edwards recognized Rosie Hussey for her service to the Board while serving as president.

Diane Crookham-Johnson nominated Mike Knedler of Council Bluffs for vice president of the State Board. Rosie Hussey seconded. Mike Knedler accepted the nomination and nominations ceased.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

Brad Buck indicated that the Department is working on guidance to districts as a result of the 2014 legislative session. Additional financial support was received for developing a training and support system for teachers and principals as the state embarks on the Teacher Leadership and Compensation System.

Buck reported that a retreat was held for the Department's Management Council. The focus of the retreat was how to make the Department a better organization in order to meet the learning needs of all students in the state.

Buck talked about proposed laws that emerged during the 2014 legislative session dealing with the Iowa Core.

Legislative Update

Phil Wise, Policy Advisor, Division of Policy and Communications, provided a legislative update. This year's focus was on early literacy and Teacher Leadership and Compensation.

Wise reported on the following legislative actions and indicated that these items are waiting for the Governor's approval:

- Early Warning Assessment Instruments - $1.93 million appropriation
- Teacher Leadership and Compensation System - $1 million appropriation to the area education agency system to work with the Department in implementation

- Successful Progression for Early Reading Programs - $8 million appropriation
- English Language Learners - $500,000 appropriation for pilot projects in local education agencies; rule-making authority to the Board to adopt standards
- Administrator Quality Aspect of Teacher Leadership and Compensation - $1 million appropriation
- Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics under the Board of Educational Examiners

Consent Agenda

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

Beth Happe, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, indicated that she has been working with Grand View Christian School as they embark on their journey to be accredited. Grand View Christian School superintendent, Dick McWilliams, provided comments.

Rules: Chapter 97 – Supplementary Weighting (Emergency)

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, indicated that last year, the Department proposed changes to the current administrative rules for operational sharing to comply with the state law passed in the 2013 legislative session of the Iowa General Assembly. Those changes were put on session delay at the request of the Department so that the Legislature could review the enacted statute for potential changes that would serve to contain the cost of the program.

During the 2014 legislative session, lawmakers revised the legislation enacted in 2013 and Governor Branstad signed the revised proposal into law. New administrative rules need to be enacted to conform with the new law, which replaces the 2013 legislation, and as a result, emergency rules were proposed to ensure there were no lags in funding for qualified school districts.

> **Motion**: Mike Knedler made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board adopt the Chapter 97 rules as amended.
>
> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about whether this rule change limits the number of positions that can be shared.

Iowa School Business Management Academy Training

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, indicated that in 2011, the Legislature enacted provisions to establish a school business official authorization through the Board of Educational Examiners. That legislation required the Department to create a process by which interested parties could apply to be a provider of this training to new school business officials.

Berger reported that the Iowa School Business Management Academy (ISBMA) was approved for an initial two-year cycle for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2014. Over that period, the Department worked closely with ISBMA to ensure quality of content and integrity of implementation. Feedback from participants has been very good and the Department is seeing an improvement in the overall quality of performance of all school business officials statewide. The Department supports the efforts of the program and wants it to continue.

> **Motion:** Mary Ellen Miller made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board grant full approval for the ISBMA program beginning July 1, 2014, for a period of seven years.
>
> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

Independent Accrediting Agency Approval - American Montessori Society

Ryan Wise, Deputy Director, and Beth Happe, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, presented this item.

Iowa law states that a nonpublic school may be accredited by an independent accrediting agency that appears on a list maintained by the Board. The Board shall maintain a list of approved independent accrediting agencies comprised of at least six regional or national nonprofit, nongovernmental agencies recognized as reliable authorities concerning the quality of education offered by a school and shall publish the list of independent accrediting agencies on the Department's website. The list shall include accrediting agencies that, as of January 1, 2013, accredited a nonpublic school in this state that was concurrently accredited under this section; and any agency that has a formalized partnership agreement with another agency on the list and has member schools in this state as of January 1, 2013. [Five agencies met this standard at the enactment of these rules: Independent Schools Association of the Central States, Christian Schools International, AdvancEd, the National Lutheran Schools Association, and the Association of Christian Schools International. The American Montessori Society (AMS) seeks authority to be the sixth agency on the list of those approved by the Board.]

Happe talked about AMS and the process used to identify them as a "reliable authority concerning the quality of education." AMS is the advocate for quality Montessori education, an innovative, child-centered approach to learning. AMS sets the professional standards that inform Montessori education as practiced in AMS-accredited schools and taught in AMS-affiliated teacher education programs. AMS currently accredits 159 Montessori programs and has over 1,300 member schools worldwide.

Additionally, AMS is an accredited member organization of the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA), a national organization that serves as a review panel for the standards and review procedures of private school accrediting agencies.

Because AMS is member of NCPSA, schools that are accredited by AMS are also accredited by NCPSA.

There was discussion regarding other independent accrediting agencies, the number of Montessori schools in the state, the grade span levels that AMS can approve, the independent accrediting agencies authority and the state's authority, whether there is a time limit on how long independent accrediting agencies have authority to accredit nonpublic schools, and whether other states have independent accrediting agencies.

Nicole Proesch, Attorney, Office of the Director, indicated that independent accreditation will cease in 2020 unless there is action to continue.

> **Motion**: Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board approve AMS as a "reliable authority concerning the quality of education" and grant AMS authority to accredit nonpublic schools in the state of Iowa.
>
> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

In Re Open Enrollment of C.L. (Dike-New Hartford Community School District)

Nicole Proesch, Attorney, Office of the Director, referenced Iowa Code section 282.18 and 290.1 and recommended that the Board approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the local board of directors of the Dike-New Hartford Community School District (DNCSD) which denied the open enrollment application filed on behalf of C.L.

C.L.'s family resides in the DNCSD. C.L. transferred from South Carolina to DNCSD the first week of September 2013. During the first month of school, C.L. was given the nickname "Chuckles" by his peers. Students in his class and additionally one teacher were calling C.L. Chuckles. C.L. did not like the nickname and reported this to his mother, Paula, who reported it to the principal, Jerry Martinek. Principal Martinek immediately spoke to the teacher and the teacher apologized and offered to speak with the other students to tell them to address C.L. by his proper name. Several students continued to tease C.L. and call him Chuckles. Paula reported these incidents to Principal Martinek and he addressed each incident as it occurred.

On November 5, 2013, Paula met with Superintendent Larry Hunt to discuss open enrolling C.L. out of the district to the Cedar Falls Community School District (CFCSD). Paula told Superintendent Hunt that C.L. had been bullied and students were calling him names. She felt that Principal Martinek had addressed each incident appropriately, but she still felt CFCSD was a better fit for C.L.

On November 11, 2013, a student slammed C.L.'s locker door catching C.L.'s finger in the door because C.L. was getting on the student's nerves by telling him the things he was doing wrong in basketball practice. The incident appeared to be an accident by all accounts. The student received a one-day in-school suspension for the incident. That

same day, Paula and her husband met with Superintendent Hunt and indicated they wanted to open enroll C.L. out of the district. On December 16, 2013, the local school board denied the late filed open enrollment application because the board did not feel that the incidents fit pervasive harassment. Additionally, the Board felt that each incident was addressed by the district and things had gotten better.

In reviewing an open enrollment decision involving a claim of repeated acts of harassment under Iowa Code § 282.18(5), the Board has set out four criteria that all must be met in order to overturn the decision of the local board. The evidence at the hearing before the administrative law judge showed that the conduct did not rise to the level of pervasive harassment contemplated by the statute. Even if the conduct had risen to the level of pervasive harassment, the district was addressing the issue. Therefore, the second and third criterions were not met.

Proesch recommended that the State Board affirm the denial of the open enrollment application.

There was discussion about whether there are guidelines regarding pervasive harassment, the district's proactive response to the situation, and the need to redefine the term "pervasive."

> **Motion**: Rosie Hussey made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the local board of directors of the Dike-New Hartford Community School District denying the open enrollment application filed on behalf of C.L.
>
> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

Viterbo University Administrator Preparation Program Approval

Matt Ludwig, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, welcomed Viterbo University staff members: Barbara Gayle, Jerry Kember, Rhonda Rabbitt, and Norene Bunt.

Ludwig talked in detail about each of the program approval standards and indicated that Viterbo University met all of the standards. The standards are: Governance, Diversity, Faculty, Assessment, Clinical, and Curriculum.

Ludwig shared information about the strengths of the program, areas for improvement, and Viterbo's action plan.

> **Motion**: Rosie Hussey made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded that the State Board approve Viterbo University-Iowa Center Principal Preparation Program through the next state accreditation cycle scheduled for the 2019-2020 academic year.
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> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

Viterbo staff shared comments that they appreciated the process and acknowledged the help of Department staff.

Iowa Central Community College Paraeducator Certification Program Approval

Marietta Rives, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, reported that Iowa Central Community College (ICCC) submitted an application that contained a significant number of blanks where descriptions of evidence was requested. The recommendation to rescind approval of ICCC's paraeducator certification program was made after numerous telephone and email contacts had been made and extensive assistance had been offered.

There was discussion regarding when ICCC received its original paraeducator program approval, and how many paraeducators they've recommended for certification.

> **Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike May seconded that the ICCC Paraeducator Certification Program approval status be rescinded by the State Board.
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> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

Update on Child Care Standards

Mary Delagardelle, Associate Division Administrator, Division of Learning and Results, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, and Jennifer Adkins, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, provided an update on the standards for before and after school childcare for school-aged children.

Delagardelle explained that Iowa Code section 279.49 states that childcare programs (operated or contracted by the board and located on school property) can either be licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) or they can come under the Department's childcare standards.

Delagardelle indicated that approximately a year ago, it was discovered that between 256 and 375 schools have exercised their option to be exempt from DHS licensing and are under the Department's standards; however, the Department was not aware that districts were aligning their programs to these standards. Delagardelle reported on what is being done to address this issue.

Delagardelle talked about the Infant and Toddler Standards and the Early Childhood Preschool Program Standards which also serve as standards for childcare for children, ages birth to 3 years, and 3 to 5 years, respectively. The standards being presented to the Board address before and after school care for school-age children and align more closely to DHS standards.

The guidelines that were approved previously do not address some age groups and are not comprehensive in terms of both safety and operations. To develop these standards, the staff relied on the previous guidelines, the Council of Accreditation Standards, DHS rules, and the Iowa After School Alliance Standards. Several schools have inquired about the standards so it is important to have more comprehensive guidance for the school districts.

There was discussion about whether schools are running the childcare programs or if they are run by private entities and if the services are free, whether or not schools want to have programs, if the childcare programs contain educational components, the reason why both the Department and DHS offer childcare programs, and teacher requirements.

> **Motion**: Rosie Hussey made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board approve the Before/After School-Aged Childcare Program Standards and Criteria.
>
> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates

Laurie Phelan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG) presented current work of that organization. iJAG is an independent, statewide private nonprofit corporation established in 1999 and has become a leader within the national JAG network. Initially created for high school seniors as a school-to-work program, iJAG has evolved into an organization serving more than 1,500 students per year in 35 programs (30 schools), reaching into multiple communities across the state of Iowa and Illinois.

There was discussion regarding the number of students served in the iJAG program each year, parental involvement, budget, and how students can get involved.

Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report – 2015

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, indicated that the State Board has statutory authority to approve community college budgets. The Community College Council has recommended approval of these budgets.

Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, explained that the Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report is required by Iowa Code and 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.

There was discussion regarding trends in the state.

> **Motion**: Rosie Hussey made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board approve the community college certified budgets as provided.
>
> **Vote**: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Community Colleges Adult Education and Literacy Report

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, reported that the Legislature appropriated new state support for adult education and literacy programming. The $5.5 million appropriation for fiscal year 2014 is the first dedicated state funding stream for adult education and literacy programs and is intended to supplement federal allocations. In addition, the state has switched from the General Educational Development (GED) assessment to the HiSET assessment.

Alex Harris, Consultant, Adult Education Program Consultant and State Director for Adult Education, Bureau of Community Colleges, shared highlights of the Iowa Community Colleges Adult Education and Literacy Report.

This report is Iowa's response to four questions that the United States Department of Education requires of all states and territories receiving federal funds through the Workforce Investment Act, Title II, and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. The overall goal of the Act is "to increase the employability, retention, and earnings of participants and increase occupational skill attainment by participants and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competiveness of the nation."

There was discussion regarding how the Department acquired the legislative funding.

Board Reports

Mike May indicated that Board members need solid information to enable them to answer questions regarding the Common Core and the Iowa Core.

Mary Ellen Miller wants to better understand the Common Core and the role of the federal government in education broadly. She attended a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) presentation in Pella.

Mike Bearden attended a STEM presentation in Marshalltown.

Rosie Hussey referenced Education Week articles on the Common Core. She received an invitation to Edgar Thornton's high school graduation. She attended an Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation Committee meeting and has been working on the Board retreat agenda.

Brooke Axiotis had no report.

Mike Knedler visited a Council Bluffs Community School District elementary school and junior high school to observe a technology application. He is planning to attend an upcoming Competency-based Education Conference.

Angela English had no report.

Charlie Edwards talked about State Board committee assignments.

Ryan Wise shared information about the upcoming State Board retreat and the National Association of State Boards of Education New Member Institute.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President

Brad A. Buck
Director