

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 28-29
Washakie CSD #1
1900 Howell, Worland Wyoming

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Pete Gosar (by phone), Kathy Coon, Ken Rathbun, Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Scotty Ratliff, Robin Schamber, Kathryn Sessions, Walt Wilcox, Jim Rose (by phone) and Belenda Willson (by phone)

Members absent: Hugh Hageman and Nate Breen

Also present: Chelsie Oaks, WDE; Dicky Shanor, WDE; Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator; Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG); WDE; Joel Dvorak, WDE; Brent Bacon, WDE; Dave Nicolas, Superintendent Washakie #1; Jody Rakness, Washakie #1.

April 28th, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair, Kathy Coon, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chelsie Oaks conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sue Belish moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ken Rathbun.

Sue Belish moved to amend the agenda, to include the SBE Administrative Committee report on April 28th, 2016 after the school tour instead of on April 29th. Kathryn Sessions seconded.

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 18, 2016 & March 31, 2016 State Board of Education (SBE) meetings were presented for approval.

Kathryn Sessions moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Belenda Willson; the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SBE Treasurer, Ken Rathbun, presented the summary review and expenditures report for board's budgets.

Sue Belish asked how much money would revert back at the end of the biennium and if the SBE could use those funds towards the coordinator AWEC position.

Ken Rathbun felt that it made the most logical sense for the board to have the left-over funds go towards the board's position. Additionally, Ken reviewed additional cuts that would be taken out of the boards budgets in the next biennium, these cuts were requested by Governor Mead for all agencies.

Scotty Ratliff thanked Ken for his in-depth report on the SBE budget's.

Sue Belish moved that once the SBE Treasurer, staff and WDE staff have determined the amount of the remaining balance in the current biennium; that those funds would be used towards the coordinator position. Kathryn Sessions seconded; the motion carried.

Lastly, Ken recommended to the board that it consider paying the NASBE dues a year in advance to cover the 2017 dues. He believed it would be beneficial to the board to alleviate one year of dues, especially with the budget cuts the board faces in the 2017-2018 biennium.

Belenda Willson moved the NASBE dues for 2017 be paid out of the current biennium budget, Sue Belish seconded. The motion carried.

WYOMING STATE SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Jillian Balow gave on update on the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). She stated that in the May SBE meeting WDE division directors would be coming before the board to present information about the different divisions.

Dean Ray Reutzell, College of Education, gave an update about the University of Wyoming and the work that the college of education is doing to become a great teacher college.

Scotty Ratliff requested that the Dean or one of his representatives come to all SBE meetings and thanked him for his attendance.

BOARD REPORTS AND UPDATES

Legislative Tasks

Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator, reviewed the memo she provided to the board in the meeting packet.

NASBE Grant and Legislative Forum Meeting

Paige Fenton Hughes reviewed her experience at the NASBE Legislative Forum in early April and gave an update on the status of the NASBE grant work she and Chelsie have been doing.

Pete Gosar informed the board on his take-away from the conference.

SBE Policies

Paige Fenton Hughes described to the board how the SBE Policy and Governance were being updated with a tool provided by NASBE. She notified the board that it should plan on updating its policies after every legislative session. Lastly, Paige Fenton Hughes asked the board how it would like to review the policies. The board decided to review a couple of chapters at each meeting.

Native American Education and Root Cause Analysis.

Deb Lindsey discussed with the board the data retreats that are being provided to high priority schools.

ESSA Update

Brent Bacon notified the board that there is an ESSA PowerPoint in the packet, but that most of the information in it has already been presented to the board in a previous meeting.

Also, Brent Bacon will bring forward follow-up information on restructuring plans at a later SBE meeting.

Statewide Assessment

Deb Lindsey gave an update on a meeting with US. Department of Education on peer review and on the specialty assessment committees that have been formed.

The purpose of the specialty assessment committees is to determine the “appropriate application or modification of the recommendations” of the Wyoming Assessment Task Force report to the areas listed above and report any recommendations related to the specialty assessments to the Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability by September 30, 2016.

If a board member is interested on sitting on any of the committees they are more than welcomed to and to let Deb Lindsey know.

SBE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Sue Belish reported that 29 people applied for the State Board of Education Coordinator position. The committee reviewed all the applications and chose to interview three candidates. Interviews have been scheduled for May 7, 2016 and will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the candidates will be given two writing prompts. Sue asked if any members of the board wished to be in the interviews. Kathryn Sessions requested to be a part of the interviewing committee.

Additionally, the Administration Committee reported on the status of the Chapter 31 rules and that currently there is no issue with the content or context, but that the rules need to be more articulate. Mackenzie Williams will be assisting to ensure the language provided in the rules is fluent.

WYOMING STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

Dr. Joel Dvorak presented on the final comprehensive framework for a statewide system of support for Wyoming and an update on the root cause analysis and his visits to districts.

Jillian Balow added that it was important to know that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is becoming a part of everything and that it will change the way the Wyoming does business but with change creates great opportunities for Wyoming.

The Wyoming State Board of Education recessed at 5:05 p.m.

April 29, 2016

The Wyoming State Board of Education reconvened at 8:00 a.m.

SBE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication Committee

Ken Rathbun reported to the board the status of the new SBE website. The board will receive a link to the preview page via Chelsie.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Kevin Mitchell, Superintendent at Park CSD 1 introduced Jason Hillman and Scott Schiller. Mr. Hillman and Mr. Schiller presented to the board on what Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) look like and operate in their schools and the benefits of having the PLCs.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PLAN

Paige Fenton Hughes asked the board on how it wished to move forward with the strategic planning process. In the NASBE grant the board is obligated to create a strategic plan.

The Board requested that Paige create a draft and present it at the next SBE meeting.

CHAPTER 3 RULES

Mackenzie Williams reviewed the rules provided in the meeting packet and the necessity to revise them.

Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the rules as they were presented, seconded by Ken Rathbun; the motion carried.

NEXT YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE

The board discussed where and when it would like hold the next year of meetings. The board agreed to meet in more central locations and to start later the first day meeting to allow people to travel in the morning which will reduce travel costs.

Additionally, the board agreed it needed to be more accommodating to WDE employees who needed to present and discussed the logistics of having WDE staff present via GoToMeeting.

The board will approve a final meeting schedule as its May 19-20, 2016 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jodi Cole gave public comment on the Washakie CSD #1 grading system.

NEXT MEETING

The board's next meeting will take place in Laramie May 19-20, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.