

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 20-21, 2017  
970 N. Glenn Road  
Casper, Wyoming

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Walt Wilcox, Ken Rathbun, State Superintendent Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Nate Breen, Scotty Ratliff, Kathryn Sessions, Ryan Fuhrman, Dan McGLade, Max Mickelson, Jim Rose (via GoToMeeting), and Belenda Willson (via GoToMeeting on 4/21).

Members absent: Robin Schamber

Also present: Kylie Taylor, WDE; Lisa Weigel, WDE; Kodi Gerhold, WDE; Thomas Sachse, SBE Coordinator; Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG); Jill Stringer, WDE; Julie Magee, WDE; Laurie Hernandez, WDE; Barb Marquer, WDE; Sean McInerney, WEA; Rob Black, WDE; Terra Hernandez, WDE.

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April 20, 2017

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walt Wilcox called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Kylie Taylor conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Belenda Willson moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ryan Fuhrman; the motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 23-24, 2017 State Board of Education meeting were presented for approval.

Sue Belish moved to approve the minutes with an amendment on the last page regarding Diane Clapp's comments during public comment at the March State Board of Education meeting. Motion to amend that the minutes read Ms. Clapp asked a question about how and when stakeholders are to be involved in the accountability report from January 2012. The motion and amendment was seconded by Scotty Ratliff; the motion and amendment carried. Nate Breen did not vote because he was not present at the March State Board of Education Meeting.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

SBE Treasurer, Ken Rathbun, presented the summary review and expenditures report for the board's budgets, and went over the remaining balances and time left in the current biennium.

Ryan Fuhrman moved to approve the presented Treasurer's Report, Superintendent Balow seconded; the motion carried.

## WYOMING STATE SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

State Superintendent, Jillian Balow, gave an update on State agencies being on a hiring freeze starting May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Wyoming Department of Education is down 16 position but Superintendent Balow says everyone is very dedicated and committed to supporting school districts and they are looking very closely at how the Department is utilizing people in our agency and divisions. Superintendent Balow also gave an introduction of Kylie Taylor, the new Education Program Specialist. Superintendent Balow stated that last week was the first wave of Every Student Succeeds Act plans to be submitted by thirteen states. Wyoming is still on track to meet our deadlines and we are close to putting out the first draft for public comment. Next week Superintendent Balow will be traveling to Washington, DC to meet with Secretary Betsy DeVos and for the Teacher of the Year celebration. Last week a technical assistance phone call and Legislation digest was held to provide guidance for school districts in specific relation to school funding.

Sue Belish asked if the hiring freeze on State agencies will affect the State Board of Education Coordinator position

Superintendent Balow responded that it doesn't impact that position because it is in Statute

Walt Wilcox stated that out of the thirteen states that submitted their ESSA plans, not quite half of those were accepted and asked Superintendent Balow to speak more on that.

Superintendent Balow suggested that question be redirected to WDE staff because they knew more details on that.

Julie Magee answered by saying that the biggest reason is that States are not completing their long term goals and don't have performance data available to set goals.

## BOARD REPORTS, UPDATES & COMMENTS

### **Wyoming Accountability Education Act (WAEA)**

Julie Magee, WDE, presented that in March the State Board of Education received information about the requirements of ESSA and the overlap in WAEA. Julie presentation shared the long-term goals, the "5<sup>th</sup> indicator", and the plan for identification and support that will be included in the draft of the ESSA state plan that will be released for public comment. Please be aware that there were changes to this presentation and Board Members have been emailed the updated PowerPoint.

Sue Belish asked Julie to tell people what the subgroups are that she referred to in her presentation.

Julie explains the subgroups to be IEP's, free and reduced lunch, and English language learners, the goal is to look at the performance of those groups and narrow the performance gap.

Julie indicates the slide that is different from the packet has a chart that has a formula of how many years it will take kids to become proficient in certain areas.

Sue Belish asks does this equate how we are figuring out growth or equity in anyway, are we adding one more or new way of progress, and how do we explain all of these formulas so that someone in the school district or a parent understands?

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Terry Snyder, Fremont #25 Superintendent, Advisory Committee member: Asked for involvement of Advisory Committee during continued development of the ESSA state plan, and for there to be one accountability system that meets both state and federal requirements. Also wants to make sure there is no additional testing included in the ESSA state plan.
- Diana Clapp, Fremont #6 Superintendent, Advisory Committee member: Stressed that the Advisory Committee report is only recommendations and that the indicators mentioned were illustrations. Wants to make sure the career readiness measures would not be burdensome for schools.
- Construction industry workers state the importance of being career ready after high school and each give their personal experience of how they got into the field they are in today. Each of them talk about going to high schools around the state to talk to students about their options after graduating.

**Context for Discussing State Board of Education Staffing Assistance**

Tom Sachse presented to the SBE the duties of the SBE Coordinator. Tom gave background information on how much money the Legislature approved from the existing WDE budget for an AWEC position. Tom spoke about the options the SBE has with moving forward in deciding what to do with the SBE Coordinator position in regards to number of hours worked each month.

Sue Belish explained the factors of an at-will employee/AWEC position for the SBE Coordinator and indicated that having the next SBE Coordinator live in Cheyenne could be helpful.

Chairman Wilcox indicated that these are all factors that need to be taken into consideration since the contract for the SBE Coordinator ends at the end of June.

Sue Belish would like it to reflect in the minutes that what she presented on regarding the SBE Coordinator position is not her opinion just what she has observed and typed out.

**Communications Contract/Education Program Specialist**

Tom Sachse presented some priorities to take into consideration regarding the communications contract that expires at the end of May. Tom also discussed what Kylie Taylor, Education Program Specialist could do in term of legislative duties and public relations duties.

Kathryn Sessions would like a list of the duties that the Kelly Pascal has as well as the duties of Kylie Taylor, WDE Education Program Specialist.

Kenny Rathbun will present a summary of the communications contract.

Scotty Ratliff says if the SBE has any money left over from the communications contract let's look at spending money on special contracts for special events.

Chairman Wilcox says let's table the discussion on this and have the Communications Committee discuss.

## **Leader Accountability**

Lisa Weigel, WDE Liaison, and Tom Sachse presented on Leader Accountability in regards to the changes that the 2017 Legislature made to leader accountability in the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

Lisa Weigel indicated that the bill modified statutes to no longer require longitudinal data systems established by the WDE to link student achievement with school principals and district leaders. The bill also removes the requirement that the SBE leader evaluation system be based, in part, on student academic performance measures and longitudinal data systems. The SBE must adopt rules for district leadership evaluation systems that identify professional standards districts must follow. In order to assist the SBE, the WDE has developed a draft of high level work plan with the scope, timelines, stakeholders, and decision process for the SBE to review.

Tom Sachse presented priorities, parameters, and look-for in regards to leader accountability and the different details of each of those topics. Tom states that this is just the beginning of a discussion of the substance of those standards and poses options for the SBE in how different groups might begin to think about professional standards and focus squarely on improving student achievement and leaders' responsibility for creating change.

## **Off-Cycle Review of Wyoming Content Standards Options/Math Standards Review**

Laurie Hernandez, WDE, presents on the discussions around what requests would constitute the opening of the standards review process and the process the WDE is assisting with for the public to petition to promulgate, amend, or repeal rules. WDE staff and AG staff have worked together to draft a new section for Chapter 3 Rules of Practice and Procedure along with a proposed timeline.

Laurie Hernandez, WDE; and Jill Stringer, WDE, discuss the presentation that will inform the public of the design criteria, goals, objectives, and definitions of the standards and will answer any questions pertaining to the review process. Meeting will take place in Powell, Casper, Rock Springs, and Cheyenne throughout May.

## **Native Education**

Rob Black, WDE, presents on the efforts the WDE standards team is focused on to enhancing achievement of Native American students as well as creating dialogue between WDE and tribal communities in Wyoming around efforts to boost Native youth success. Rob talked about his and Superintendent Balow's recent visit with the Northern Arapaho Business Council and how they plan to meet with the Eastern Shoshone Business Council to continue efforts.

## **Chapter 6**

Shelly Andrews, WDE, and Lisa Weigel presented on Chapter 6, on April 12<sup>th</sup> the WDE received a copy of the Administrative Rule Review from the Legislative Service Office staff recommending that Management Council recommend that the Governor direct the SBE to rescind the Chapter 31 rules. Given this recent ruling on Chapter 31 from the LSO, the WDE has suspended further work on Chapter 6, unless the SBE says differently.

Mackenzie Williams, AG's Office, made a recommendation based on the fact that the Governor hadn't been briefed on the topic yet. Mackenzie suggested the SBE write a memo to the Governor explaining that the

LSO's memo had been received and the SBE has decided to not do anything further right now. Board members agreed and Tom Sachse will draft the memo to the Governor.

Due to the time, Chairman Wilcox suggests to move State Systems of Support from today's agenda to first thing Friday morning. There were no objections.

Board recessed at 6:26 p.m.

April 21, 2017

State Board of Education reconvened at 8:07 a.m.

### **State Wide Systems for Support**

Joel Dvorak, Contractor for WDE, gives his work summary for State Systems of Support through the month of March and updates from the Collaborative Council.

Career Readiness Initiative: the Wyoming Career Readiness Council completed a needs assessment in September 2016. This needs assessment brought forward a need for Wyoming to look closely at data from K-12, postsecondary, workforce and industry to determine areas where Wyoming should prioritize its efforts. The Council will be going through WyoSIMPL data analysis to begin to develop the priorities for the Council's work.

Coders of the West: a project that the WDE started to connect the students with industry partners. Phase I was the pilot project where students were able to connect to the industry through internships around Cheyenne and Sheridan with Gannett Peak Technology and Sheridan Programmers Guild. The help students be better prepared for their internships, the WDE is working with curriculum directors, coding teachers, and industry partners to create an online class that will prepare students to work with industry. We are exploring how to continue the project into Phase II.

Statewide LMS/SF35: Senate File 35 was signed into law on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. SF35 was based on recommendations from the 2015 Distance Education Task Force to help reduce barriers associated with offering and taking virtual education courses. The bill made significant changes to statute, including removing the Distance Learning Plan, and instead establishing a centralized statewide Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS will assist districts with being able to provide equal access to educational opportunities for all students, and will increase ease of access and continuity for students.

Wyoming Switchboard Network: the WDE is in the process of developing an upgraded Wyoming Switchboard Network (WSN) website with an online catalog for K-12 virtual education courses offered in Wyoming.

Trust Fund Grant: the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant was designed to provide funds to public school districts providing improvement to public education programs. The grant is approved for the following categories: curriculum development, operational initiatives, administrator and staff development improvement programs, technology, and applied science and technology programs. The application for the grant award year 2017-2018 is now available for school districts.

Open Range Wyoming: an open education resource platform that will be used to create and maintain a statewide repository of openly-licensed educational resources and support Wyoming school districts and educators as they make the transition to the use of high-quality, openly-licensed education resources in their schools.

Wyoming Innovations in Learning: this will be a first time conference that will be for a K-20 audience. UW e-Volution, WyDEC, WDE and School Librarians are partnering together to plan and implement a K-20 conference for Wyoming educators instead of offering two separate conferences for similar audiences.

Classroom Connectivity: through trainings and support the WDE, Governor's office, Department of Enterprise Technology Services and Education Super Highway have been collaborating to provide support to districts around connectivity throughout all classrooms.

### **Committee Options for New State Board Members**

Tom Sachse gives an overview on the possible committees for board members consideration and the committees' objective, roles and responsibilities, and desired outcome.

#### Administrative Committee

Provide oversight of SBE administrative duties, meet SBE legislative duties, advocate the SBE agenda, and execute and manage all state board contracts.

#### Communications Committee

Articulate the roles and responsibilities of the SBE, promote the functions of the SBE as a key policy lever in the oversight of public schooling in Wyoming, and provide a variety of communication vehicles to communicate the work of the State Board.

#### Legislative Committee

Advise the coordinator (and legislators, more generally) on the level of support for pending, proposed legislation. Desired outcome is to advocate for the positions and priorities of the SBE.

#### Budget Committee

Monitor the SBE budget, communicating the budget needs to other state agencies, maintain fiduciary responsibilities for budgetary expenditures.

Chairman Wilcox gives a target date of May 1<sup>st</sup> for board members to submit their desired committee preference to him via email.

### **SBE 20107-18 Meeting Calendar and Locations**

Kenny Rathbun, SBE, says to board members to keep in mind that we have budget limitations and proposes to put a placeholder on the meeting schedule and discuss having some meeting via GoToMeeting to help with spending habits.

Scotty Ratliff, SBE, makes a suggestion to have meetings in Fremont, Natrona, and Converse County to keep meetings in the middle of the state.

Superintendent Balow says she agrees with Kenny and has a hard time with having 11 meetings a year, especially in regards to State agencies, money, and the Board's travel around the State. Says we need to consider monthly meetings closely.

Sue Belish, SBE, says that it can be difficult for individuals in rural areas to join meetings via GoToMeeting because of internet access.

Max Mickelson, SBE, comments on having meetings in regions rather than towns, and suggests that having more meetings in Cheyenne might work better for WDE individuals and the AG's office.

Nate Breen, SBE, says that looking at the calendar/timeline of when things need to get done, how do we balance that and suggests that this might be up to the administrative committee to discuss in depth.

Sue Belish agrees that this topic should go to the administrative committee.

Chairman Wilcox cautions that GoToMeetings can be difficult to deal with communication regarding certain topics so be conscientious when deciding what to do with meetings via internet.

Board agrees that this topic will be discussed in depth for administrative committee.

#### **Communications Committee Update**

Kenny Rathbun said he and Scotty Ratliff will meet to go over the communications contract in depth

#### **Administrative Committee Update**

The administrative committee will meet to discuss meeting options and locations, SBE coordinator position and Sue Belish said she will get meeting minutes out.

#### **National Association of State Boards of Education Conference**

Nate Breen attended the NASBE conference in Washington, DC in March and gave an update on how the conference went.

#### **Action Items:**

Sue Belish makes a motion that the long term goals, 5<sup>th</sup> indicator, and identification and support elements of the ESSA plan as presented by the WDE be submitted for public comment while the SBE and department work collaboratively to engage the Accountability Advisory Committee, members of the Professional Judgment Panel, and other appropriate stakeholders in a deliberative process to ensure that the state ESSA Plan and the WAEA system are aligned.

Max Mickelson seconded the motion.

Superintendent Balow expresses her concern on voting on these things today, expresses that there should be time to think about the framework and get stakeholder input. Fine with the motion but thinks there should be room to compromise.

Max Mickelson suggests that the motion be split into two. One motion would move the 5<sup>th</sup> indicator and the second motion would move that the SBE and WDE work collaboratively to make sure everything is aligned.

After further discussion amongst Board Members, Sue Belish withdraws her motion.

Superintendent Balow makes a motion to approve the 5<sup>th</sup> indicator as the framework that will be included for public comment.

Kathryn Sessions seconded the motion.

Chairman Wilcox makes a proposed amendment to the motion to move that the long term goals, 5<sup>th</sup> indicator, and identification and support elements become the foundation for the WAEA plan as presented in the WDE's ESSA plan to conduct a deliberative process to solicit stakeholder input as required by HEA 61.

Kathryn Sessions seconded.

Max Mickelson calls for the question.

State Board Members vote by voice and everyone was in favor with nobody opposed. The amendment passes.

Mackenzie Williams wants to clarify if the SBE members were voting on the motion or the amendment to the motion. Chairman Wilcox clarifies that they were voting on motion with the amendment.

**Action Item on Chapter 31:**

SBE members agreed that they either have the option of rescind or not take action at all.

After discussion board members decide to write a memo to the Governor's office explaining that the SBE has seen the memo from the LSO and at the time the SBE is not taking action but understand the complexity of this issue.

Chairman Wilcox says that he senses there is a consensus on this from board members and everyone agrees to send the memo.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Diana Clapp, Superintendent of Fremont CSD #6, expressed that it has been very difficult to hear public comment the last two days because there were no microphones, projector was hard to see, it was hard to see motions, changing motions, or long motions and gives a suggestion moving forward to look into purchasing microphones for board members and public that attend meetings and would like to make comments.
- Kathy Schuerman, Wyoming Education Association, made a comment regarding yesterday's discussion in regards to the ESSA update and the work that has been done. Kathy expresses the frustration that we aren't getting away from away from the same testing on kids.

Dan McGlade, SBE, makes one last comment in regards to travel before adjourning. Dan asks would it be possible to get to eight meetings in a year to make things more feasible and suggestions the board consider how we can do more with less because of budget restraints.

NEXT MEETING

The Board's next meeting will take place in Riverton May 18-19, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

DRAFT