

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 18-19, 2017
223 North Cherry Street
Pavillion, WY 82523

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Walt Wilcox, Ken Rathbun, State Superintendent Jillian Balow (via ZoomMeeting), Sue Belish, Robin Schamber, Scotty Ratliff, Kathryn Sessions, Ryan Fuhrman, Dan McGLade, Max Mickelson, Jim Rose (via ZoomMeeting), and Belenda Willson.

Members absent: Nate Breen

Also present: Kylie Taylor, WDE; Lisa Weigel, WDE; Kodi Gerhold, WDE; Thomas Sachse, SBE Coordinator; Katherine Leuschel, Attorney General's Office (AG) (via ZoomMeeting); Guy Jackson, WDE; Loralyn O'Kief, WDE; Tonya Gerharter, WDE; Julie Magee, WDE (via ZoomMeeting); Shelly Andrews, WDE (via ZoomMeeting); Brent Bacon, WDE (via ZoomMeeting); Laurel Ballard, WDE (via ZoomMeeting).

May 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walt Wilcox called the meeting to order at 11:32 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 Robin Schamber; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the April 20-21, 2017 State Board of Education meeting were presented for approval.

Kenny Rathbun motioned to approve the minutes. Sue Belish seconded to approve the minutes with an amendment on page 48 from April's SBE meeting in regards to the SBE Coordinator position. Let the amendment say discussion surrounding the Coordinator position is not a reflection of the work that the present Coordinator Tom Sachse has done. It is being discussed because the funding for the position has been reduced. Kathryn Sessions motioned to accept the minutes with the amendment was seconded by Ryan Fuhrman; the motion and amendment carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SBE Treasurer, Kenny 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.

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

WYOMING STATE SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

State Superintendent, Jillian Balow, gave her update regarding all state agencies being put on a "hard freeze", prior to the freeze the WDE was fully staffed. As positions become vacant, they are "swept" from the agency employee count. Superintendent Balow also gave an update on Chapter 31, ESSA, the community meetings and SBE member opportunities to attend, school finance, and her recent visit to Washington, DC and meeting with Secretary DeVos.

BOARD REPORTS, UPDATES & COMMENTS

Digital Learning/Career Readiness Needs Assessment & Action Plan

Laurel Ballard, WDE, presented on a new digital learning system that the WDE is currently working on. She went through the website and also went through the career readiness initiative and the work that has been done on that.

Lisa Weigel, WDE, introduces Superintendent Diana Clapp of Fremont County School District #6 to the board. Superintendent Clapp gives an overview of what they have done at Wind River Elementary in regards to the early childhood program and with expanding the school to give students and families more opportunities.

Sue Belish makes a motion to go into executive session, Dan McGlade seconds, the motion carried and the SBE goes into executive session at 4:23 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Max Mickelson made a motion to come back into general session, Sue Belish seconds the motion, the motion carried and the SBE came back into general session at 5:26 p.m.

Robin Schamber made a motion to move an action item on the agenda for Friday, May 19, to May 18. Scotty Ratliff seconds the motion. The motion is to vote to extend Tom Sachse's contract. The SBE voted, all in favor, none opposed.

ESSA Update

Brent Bacon, WDE, gave an update on ESSA and the work that the WDE is currently doing on the state plan, and the changes that have been made to the plan.

Advisory Committee Update

Julie Magee, WDE, gave an update on the Advisory Committee that the SBE agreed to bring together to discuss areas of the model that still need to be refined, specially to the "5th indicator" for high school, post-secondary readiness.

Math Standards Review

Lisa Weigel gave an update on the meetings that took place around the state for the math standards review. There were meetings in Powell, Casper, Rock Springs, and Cheyenne. The Standards Team also facilitated discussion with educators from high education, including members from UW, LCCC, WWCC, NWC, and CC.

There was no public comment.

Board recessed at 5:53 p.m.

May 19, 2017

189 Left Hand Ditch Road
Arapaho, WY 82501

State Board of Education reconvened at 8:12 a.m.

Kylie Taylor took roll call and indicated that a quorum was present.

Chairman Walt Wilcox thanked everyone at the Arapahoe school for hosting and asked Superintendent of Arapahoe Fremont #38 to speak on the Indian Education for All Bill.

SBE Committee Reports and Updates

Communications Committee

Kenny Rathbun gave an overview of the communications consultant proposal which included considerations for continuation or extension of the current communications consultant contract in light of declining revenue, deliverables to be included in contract extension, funding option for contract extension, and budget status of current communications consultant contract.

Scotty Ratliff made a motion to contract with Kelly Pascal again with the help of the WDE and not exceed \$14,500 and have work be prior approved by Chairman and Board Coordinator and spell out anything else that the AG's office see fit.

Sue Belish seconds the motion.

Ryan Fuhrman asked for clarification on the motion, is it the Chair of the Communications Committee or Chairman Wilcox approving the work of the communications consultant.

Kenny clarified that is it could be either Chairman Wilcox or Chair of Communications Committee.

Scotty Ratliff calls for the question on the motion.

Max Mickelson, Scotty Ratliff, Robin Schamber, Chairman Wilcox, Sue Belish, Dan McGlade, and Ryan Fuhrman were all in favor. Superintendent Balow voted against. The motion carried.

Administrative Committee

Sue Belish gave an overview of the SBE meeting calendars that the administrative committee approved. SBE members discussed the calendar and Sue made a motion to approve the calendars from June 2017 to May 2018. Max Mickelson seconds the motion. All members in favor, no opposed. The motion carried.

Committee Assignments

Chairman Wilcox gave the new committee assignments and asked Kylie to send the spreadsheet out to board members. Kenny Rathbun will respectfully no longer serve on the communications committee. Kathryn Sessions will continue to serve on the Collaborative Council.

Action Items:

Julie Magee (WDE) gave her recommendation that the SBE move the Chapter 31 Education Rules be formally withdrawn.

Sue Belish asked a question regarding Chapters 6, 10, and 31 all being connected together, she is worried about not doing them together.

Superintendent Balow said, "we are just now beginning to receive guidance where there has been none. We continue to have the best education law attorneys (Amy) working on this. Our 18-24 month projection is based on what we know today and subject to change as we receive more information and direction about whether we truncate chapters, provide assurances in one chapter, or make the process fluid. At any rate, we will continue to work to get this right and use resources needed to do so."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Joel Dvorak, asked what to tell school districts when he is visiting and there isn't guidance when the rules are rescinded, would a school district look to Chapter 31 for guidance if they needed it? Katherine Leuschel (AG's Office) answered by saying that yes they would still look to Chapter 31, even if the rules are rescinded.

Kenny Rathbun made a motion to formally rescind the rules to Chapter 31.

Scotty Ratliff seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Kenny made a second motion that the board initiate work through the WDE that will address the concerns cited in ARR 17-001, to include revisions to Chapter 31, 6, and 10 required to create alignment as detailed in ARR 17-001.

Max Mickelson seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Action for Alternative Calendar:

Julie Magee gave her recommendation to move that the new requests for alternative schedules be approved for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

Sue Belish and Belenda Willson both asked if the WDE can bring back some data regarding school performance with 5-day school weeks and 4-day school weeks.

Sue made a motion to approve the alternative schedules.

Scotty Ratliff seconds the motion. Max Mickelson abstains from the vote. All in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Plus Delta Suggestions:

Robin Schamber said that it's a fairly easy fix for technology issues regarding the iPad's and suggested to look into that. She also said that sometimes the agenda items aren't necessary to the board, too much detail but doesn't relate to the work the board does.

Sue Belish said that having face-to-face meetings and being able to go to different districts is really nice and she really likes doing that. Hearing from the kids is impactful and the board needs to hear those things.

Chairman Wilcox said it would be nice to meet with school districts more often. Also said it would be worth it to take a look at the standard check-list items to make sure everything is updated for getting meetings ready and facilitated. Asked if the board can help him facilitate meetings with flow and proper language with conducting board meetings.

Scotty Ratliff said don't get caught up in touring schools but be more interested in hearing success stories from districts and staff. The value comes from hearing from them and what is working.

Max Mickelson cautions not to conflate things when dealing with technology issues.

Belenda Willson said that sometimes the presentations aren't in the meeting packet and asks if there is a way to present the packet online if they aren't in packet.

Sue said that if people are going to presenting the board needs to be able to see it before the meeting and it needs to be public record, suggests having printed agendas for face-to-face meetings.

Ryan Fuhrman said that it's always about the kids, it's important for the board to be grounded and remember that.

NEXT MEETING

The Board's next meeting will take place in Sheridan June 22, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.