

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 25, 2019
121 N. 5th Street, West
Riverton

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Chairman Wilcox, Sue Belish, Dicky Shanor (proxy for Superintendent Balow), Nate Breen, Ryan Fuhrman, Bill Lambert, Robin Schamber, Forrest Smith, Max Mickelson, Debbie Bovee, and Dan McGlade.

Members absent: Sandy Caldwell, Dr. Dean Ray Reutzler, and Kathryn Sessions

Also present: Kylie Taylor, WDE; Dr. Thomas Sachse; Michelle Panos, WDE; Julie Magee, WDE; Mackenzie Williams, AG; and Randall Lockyear, AG.

April 25, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Madam Chair Belish called the State Board of Vocational Education to order at 8:05 a.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nate Breen moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Max Mickelson; the motion carried.

Dr. Michelle Aldrich and John Bole from the WDE updated the board on the state reports and Perkins V Transition Plan and gave an update on the listening sessions that were conducted around the state.

Dicky Shanor moved to approve the Perkins V Transition Plan, seconded by Max Mickelson; the motion carried.

The State Board of Vocational Education adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Madam Chair Belish called the State Board of Education to order at 8:45 a.m.

Max Mickelson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Robin Schamber; the motion carried.

State Superintendent's Update

Dicky Shanor, proxy for Superintendent Balow, gave a verbal update and said Superintendent Balow sends her regrets on not being able to attend the meeting in person.

Coordinator's Report

SBE Coordinator, Tom Sachse, began his report with an overview of the administrative procedures parts two and three. The board will receive these procedures again in May to be approved as an action item.

Tom updated the board on the status of the legislative interim topics including topics the board has specific interest in. Matt Wilmarth from the Legislative Services Office contacted the Joint Education Interim Committee co-chairs to ask whether the SBE could convene the committee to make recommendations to state policy makers, Tom said they were appreciative of the board's leadership.

The "basket of goods" committee met the day before the April board meeting in Riverton, Tom gave an update of the work and discussion that was had during the committee meeting. The committee may make recommendations to state policy makers.

Treasurer's Report

SBE Treasurer, Max Mickelson, reviewed the board's budget and expenditures and reviewed the "biennium expenditure options" summary that Tom Sachse created to allocate funds to take up studies on certain topics. Max indicated that discussion of alternative possibilities as a predicate for submitting the next SBE budget proposal would be productive.

SBE COMMITTEE UPDATES

Communications Committee

Ryan Fuhrman informed the board that the committee is continuing to work on guest blog posts and outreach to spread the work of the SBE.

Administrative Committee

Sue Belish indicated the information from the administrative committee meeting was in the packet in her summary.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Certified Personnel Evaluation Systems Update

Laurel Ballard, WDE, updated the board on the work of the Certified Personnel Evaluation System Advisory Committee. The advisory committee has worked to balance the SBE's desire to leave as much local flexibility as possible for districts while ensuring the statutory requirements are being met. The teacher evaluation system portion of Chapter 29 was reorganized into two sections. Section 6 provides the general criteria for school district comprehensive teacher performance evaluation systems. Section 7 contains information on the submission and approval of the evaluation systems. Section 2 contains definitions found throughout the Chapter 29 Rules. Several definitions have been added, revised, or removed based on the changes made in Sections 6 and 7.

Work Plan for Administrative Rules

Julie Magee, WDE, reviewed a proposed timeline for promulgating rules as needed between April 2019 and May 2020.

SCRIPT Training – Computer Science Deployment Strategic Planning

Laurel Ballard, WDE, reviewed with the board that many school districts are missing a comprehensive plan for how to implement a high quality computer science education within their district. The WDE received a \$95,000 grant from Microsoft's TechSpark initiative to provide Computer Science implementation and training to individual school districts that apply for grant consideration. The grant from Microsoft will enable

the WDE to deliver Computer Science training to all school districts. The trainings will occur in five locations around the state and go through June of 2020.

Computer Science Standards

Laurie Hernandez, WDE, briefed the board on the April 8 Computer Science Standards Committee meeting. The committee meeting started with an open forum where committee members discussed the following:

- PTSB certification
- Creating a resource list to assist in implementation
- How Wyoming's proposed standards are similar to the national standards, as well as standards within other states
- What is the expectation after the standards are adopted?
- Specific issues if the standards are rolled-out:
 - Legislative mandate to teach computer science
 - Vocabulary (CS literacy)
 - Structure
 - Removal of foundational skills
 - Implementation for large and small districts

A revised format to the original draft document was shared with the committee. The rationale for revisions from the original document include addressing the concerns about the length, complexity, and overwhelming feeling of the original document. The committee members broke into subgroups comprised of K-2, 3-5, and Middle School/High School to plan the best way to approach the concerns from the public input collected. Once the committee members had finished their work, they voted on the changes and document as a whole, and consensus was reached.

ACTION ITEMS

Chapter 10 Rules (Computer Science Standards)

Debbie Bovee moved to promulgate the Chapter 10 Rules on Computer Science Standards; seconded by Dicky Shanor with an amendment to the language on page four of the standards document; the amendment was seconded by Sue Belish, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Snyder, Fremont County School District #25

Quality of implementation and the timeline to get that done is going to take some funding. Some districts have expertise but other districts are starting at the ground level, one Superintendent said his technology coordinator believed it would take years of pro-development to get this implemented. Districts are putting a high priority on this but we want quality and it will be a process but that's what educators do. It will be a challenge to monitor this, we have a better shot at this now than from three weeks ago.

Erin Taylor, Microsoft

It's important for me to be here again today, we have been supporting this from the beginning and in the committee working on this. We aren't the first state to go through this, we have resources out there and that's where Microsoft thought they could help. Microsoft is promoting Computer Science through the

SCRIPT training. Our economy is changing whether we like it or not, if there is a way we can help, Microsoft is going to have a hand in how we can make that better. We're here to help Wyoming with recourse and we're happy to provide that. I'm going to switch hats and speak as a parent, I have kids in the school system and everything our kids do is so different from how we all grew up and it's so important to me as a parent. It might not be perfect today but we're seeing companies stand up on funding, approach it with openness and creativity, it takes leadership and courage to take something on like this. I encourage you to move forward.

Cindy Delancey, Wyoming Business Alliance

The Legislature adopted Senate File 29 which adopted this topic, this is the law in Wyoming right now, that requires action to be taken and the world is watching. Just because something is hard doesn't mean we shouldn't do it, I encourage you to listen to the testimony that has been presented before you today. This is a lot but it's because it's so important, we're spending millions to help move Wyoming forward, we can't just throw our hands up and say "it's too hard." The committee has spent tons of time on this and if we don't move forward with what the committee has done, there is no incentive to be on a committee. Please approve the standards as rewritten.

Representative Albert Sommers, House District #20

Reflect on what has been heard from constituents, think about how we implement in small districts, look at what the law did say because that is important, you all are the decision makers. The level that you do this is at your decision and you have the authority to do what you want with it. It is important to move forward when you get the standards that you feel comfortable with, it's going to take some time, things shouldn't be easy, and you guys are in control of this.

Mitch Craft, Sheridan County School District #2

Thank you for listening to the educators, teachers are the ones that have to do this and their voices are essential. I'd also like to thank the Computer Science Committee and the WDE for the work to revise these standards. Sheridan #2 believes these standards aren't important but essential. There isn't usually time for the committee to get together after the feedback is received, this approach is valuable and should be considered for future standards. We're grateful the SBE pumped the brakes to get the right standards.

Jennifer Hayward, Sublette County School District #1

It's a very important topic, we need to embrace it to help our children succeed in life. A project that we work on in first grade is about penguins, we have intergraded science and writing standards, this project is powerful with first grade students and something we've worked on for years. As the current standards are written, I would have to teach my students much more in depth standards, I have concerns about teaching 6 and 7 year olds how to debug something. Will these standards be meaningful and beneficial to my students? I'm not sure where I will fit in Computer Science in and I worry other standards will currently get lost, I am currently getting asked to teach more and feel the pressure and stress. I have a coworker who has left because of the stress and pressure. I already have to calm my students because of the pressure put on them. I promise to do my best with teaching Computer Science and I welcome anyone to come spend a day in my classroom.

Janel Scurlock, Sublette County School District #1

Thank you to the committee, the revised version of the standards is much improved, their work is noticed and appreciated. A lot of the stuff in the standards is already being done and a lot of what's in the standards is going to be hard to implement. We believe in giving them recess, fine arts, and PE but as the

standards are written, something will have to give and be given up. We already have to deal with kids that have trauma, make them less rigid and make them more meaningful. The recommendation to attend professional development and get new devices, all cost money with limited budget and resources. Our teachers aren't experts, they are general educational teachers. This is good work, we can make it work and we will do our best to make this work.

FUTURE ITEMS

May Meeting Location

The board discussed possibly having the May board meeting in Casper because the "basket of goods" committee would be meeting in Casper the day before. The administrative committee will make the final decision and inform board members and staff.

NEXT MEETING

The board's next meeting will take place in Casper on May 23, 2019

The State Board of Education adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

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