



# WYOMING

## State Board of Education

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor  
2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0050  
(307) 777-6213 • (307) 777-6234 FAX

PETE GOSAR  
*Chair, Laramie*

KATHY COON  
*Vice Chair, Lusk*

KEN RATHBUN  
*Treasurer, Sundance*

JILLIAN BALOW  
*State Superintendent*

SUE BELISH  
*Ranchester*

NATE BREEN  
*Cheyenne*

HUGH HAGEMAN  
*Fort Laramie*

RON MICHELI  
*Fort Bridger*

SCOTTY RATLIFF  
*Riverton*

JIM ROSE  
*Ex-Officio, CCC*

KATHRYN SESSIONS  
*Cheyenne*

WALT WILCOX  
*Casper*

BELENDA WILLSON  
*Thermopolis*

CHELSE OAKS  
*Executive Assistant*

### For Immediate Release:

August 17, 2015

#### Contact:

Paige Fenton Hughes

(307) 349-4506

[paige.fentonhughes@gmail.com](mailto:paige.fentonhughes@gmail.com)

## Communication and Support Highlight State Board Action

**Cheyenne**– The Wyoming State Board of Education took steps toward engaging the public by considering a comprehensive communication plan during their meeting on August 13. Kelly Pascal Gould of Pascal Public Relations presented informal survey data, which shows the need to better communicate the board's role. The board then discussed an array of recommendations to improve communication, and include more people involved in education across the state.

"Communication and engagement are key," said State Board Chairman Pete Gosar. "The State Board hopes for more stakeholder input in the future."

During the meeting the board also decided to move forward with a statewide system of support for school districts, by approving a strategic planning element and two integral pilot components. This plan includes participation from key education leaders in the state, such as the Wyoming Center for Educational Leadership (WyCEL) at the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Association of School Administrators (WASA), and the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE).

The board has expressed concerns that the school accountability model has been in place for several years without the support component required to help schools develop the capacity to meet the rigorous targets outlined in the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act. Chairman Gosar commended the WDE, WyCEL, and WASA for collaborating to bring forward professional development and technical assistance options for the board's consideration. Collaboration will continue as the strategic plan is developed, and other elements of the system are refined.

The board also approved restructuring plans for Aspen Elementary in Evanston and Fort Washakie Middle School, approved a set of draft rules for schools to request a review of their accountability determinations, and allowed updates to requested changes in teacher evaluation systems. The meeting also included updates on the work of the statewide Assessment Task Force, the Science Standards Review Committee, and the Professional Judgment Panel.

The board's next meeting will be held September 23-25 in Pinedale.

**-END-**