

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 1, 2015
Teleconference

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Pete Gosar, Belenda Willson, Jillian Balow, Nate Breen, Kathy Coon, Sue Belish, Kathryn Sessions, Scotty Ratliff, Ken Rathbun

Absent: Hugh Hageman, Ron Micheli and Walt Wilcox

Also present: Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator; Chelsie Oaks, WDE; Laurie Hernandez, WDE; Michael Day, UW; Kathy Scheurman, WEA; Jessica Steinbrenner, WDE; and Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Gosar called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL & OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator, gave a brief overview of the duties and selection of the Assessment Task Force. She explained that the task force was populated with people from all over the State and all the statutory requirements were met.

Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the members of the assessment task force selected by an SBE committee; seconded by Kathy Coon.

Superintendent Balow requested to hear from a committee member on how the selection was made.

Sue Belish, a member of the selection committee, reiterated what the SBE coordinator has explained and added that the size of the committee was thoroughly thought through. There were a lot of great candidates.

The motion carried.

Paige Fenton Hughes turned the discussion over to Scott Marion, Chris Domaleski and Joe Martineau from the Center of Assessment.

Dr. Scott Marion will meet with the task force in early June, he expects them to meet three to four times before they will have a final recommendation/report. He noted that meetings like these always take longer than anticipated and that all these meetings will be open to the public and invited any SBE members to attend.

The goal of the first meeting will be for the task force to get grounded and really think about the hard questions. The Center of Assessment will facilitate the meetings and write the draft report that will be brought to the task force each time they meet and hopefully at the task force's last meeting they will be able to finalize the report. There might even be subcommittees of the task force that will focus on specific areas.

Sue Belish was happy to hear about the process and thought that this will be a good opportunity to look at the assessment system as a whole and assessment options.

Chairman Gosar, asked the Board if they should have any additional questions or requests to contact Scott Marion.

UPDATE FROM SBE COORDINATOR AND WDE LIAISON ON SCIENCE STANDARDS

Brent Young, WDE Liaison, briefly talked on a different approach by the WDE to update the Board. All communication would go through the WDE Liaison and then he would request the assistance of WDE staff when necessary. Mr. Young then turned the time over to Laurie Hernandez.

Laurie Hernandez gave the Board an update on the standards process. Twenty one of the original science standards team want to continue the work. Mrs. Hernandez requested the Board discuss how many additional people should be added to the science standard committee, also, as well as how the Board wanted to go about getting those additional members. They can either draw from the list of people that have applied in the past or start over.

The Board agreed that there needed to be a new survey available for people to apply.

Sue Belish moved that there be a total of thirty-six members on the science standards committee, with twelve people in each grade band. Within those twelve people, there will be two parents, one person from higher education and one person from business with a mining or science background. Nate Breen seconded; the motion carried.

Brent Young, noted that he has been working with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and discussed that the WDE will be holding regional meetings around the science standards in May and early June, with focus on how the

standards are facilitated and what the public wished a Wyoming students science skills set be.

Sue Belish mentioned that she liked the idea of having these regional meetings upfront, and thought it was a great idea to have NSABE assist in facilitating the WDEs first meeting.

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, discussed that NASBE will be doing an additional training/support meeting around the stipend request for the Board, possibly at the June meeting.

The coordinator also updated the Board on the communication RFP and that the communication committee will be meeting with the candidates on April 8. Additionally, she noted that the University of Wyoming, College of Education has been interviewing for a new dean.

Lastly, Brent Young introduced the new communications director at the WDE, Kari Eakins.

The State Board of Education adjourned at 3:32 p.m.