



WYOMING

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State Board Listens to Importance of Collaborative Process

Cheyenne— The Wyoming State Board of Education began their July 27 meeting with a presentation that focused on a collaborative effort in education underway in Idaho. Last year, a working group was established to address education reforms in Idaho, and their efforts were compiled in a detailed report that was shared with Wyoming's State Board. Tracie Bent, chief planning and policy officer for the Idaho State Board of Education, gave an overview of the work of the Idaho group and answered questions on the continuing efforts of specialized committees.

Later, the Wyoming State Board tabled a Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) proposal for a system of support for school districts as part of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act requirements. Board member Sue Belish praised the department for working with district superintendents as well as the Wyoming Center for Educational Leadership at the University of Wyoming in crafting the proposal. However, the board ultimately felt that questions about budgeting, personnel contracts, and alignment among the various sections of the proposal need more specifics before approval.

The board did approve a proposed standards review timeline (<http://goo.gl/bLNAuK>) presented by the WDE. The board and the WDE worked collaboratively on a timeline that would work for both the WDE standards team and local school districts. A nine-year schedule was set, and math will be the next content area that is reviewed.

"We felt it was important to set and define a standards review process that would assist districts and the WDE in planning and implementation," said Chairman Pete Gosar.

The board also approved emergency rules to the WDE's Chapter 31 Rules on Wyoming Graduation Requirements. The board also heard updates on the statewide assessment task force, ongoing work by Wyoming PBS to create video lessons about the Wind River Indian Reservation, and the Wyoming School-University Partnership summer symposium.

The board's next meeting is August 13 in Casper.

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