

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 14, 2015
Fremont CSD #38 Boardroom
445 Little Wind River Bottom Road
Arapahoe, Wyoming

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Kathy Coon, Dicky Shanor, proxy for Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Nate Breen, Scotty Ratliff, Kathryn Sessions, Walt Wilcox, Belenda Willson

Members absent: Pete Gosar, Ken Rathbun, Hugh Hageman, Ron Micheli, and Jim Rose

Also present: Chelsie Oaks, WDE; Brent Young, WDE; Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator; Megan Nicholas, Attorney General's Office (AG)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Gosar was unable to attend the meeting, the meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m. by Vice Chair, Kathy Coon.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sue Belish moved to amend the agenda to add a discussion on the JEC meeting prep and MindMixer and to hear the committee reports to the end of the agenda, seconded by Scotty Ratliff; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 17-18, 2015 & April 1, 2015 State Board of Education meetings were presented for approval.

Kathryn Sessions moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Sue Belish; the motion carried.

RESTRUCTURING PLANS

Scott Bullock, WDE Federal Programs Division consultant, gave a brief overview of the federal requirements for restructuring plans and the Board's role in approving the plans. The following schools each presented their plan individually.

Albany County School District (CSD) #1, Velma Linford Elementary school, Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the presented plan, with follow-up from the WDE on the implementation of the plan, seconded by Belenda Willson; the motion carried.

Converse CSD #1, Douglas Upper Elementary School, Brent Norman highlighted the plan provided in the Board packet. Walt Wilcox moved to approve the presented plan, with follow-up from the WDE on the implementation of the plan, seconded by Kathryn Sessions; the motion carried.

Fremont CSD #1, Pathfinder High School, Jannette Van Patten, principal at Pathfinder High School presented its plan to the Board, and noted her biggest struggle is attendance and tardiness. Belenda Willson moved to approve the plan, but only after the Fremont CSD #1 School Board approves it. Seconded by Sue Belish; the motion carried.

Fremont CSD #14, Wyoming Indian Elementary School, Principal Owen St. Clair, went over the restructuring plan, noted the school wants to focus on individual learning. Sue Belish moved to approve the restructuring plan for Fremont #14 for Wyoming Indian Elementary, Scotty Ratliff seconded; the motion carried.

Goshen CSD #1 Trail Elementary & Lincoln Elementary Schools, Jean Chrostoski, Superintendent, introduced herself and staff. Staff discussed the restructuring plans for both schools. Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the restructuring plans for Trail and Lincoln Elementary Schools, Walt Wilcox seconded; the motion carried.

Nate Breen asked that he be excused from the next two presentations due to a conflict of interest as he serves on the Laramie County School District #1 School Board and has already approved the plans.

Laramie CSD #1 Baggs Elementary School, Coleen West, Assistant Director of Instruction/School Improvement at LCSD #1 and Brook Kelly, Principal, reviewed the restructuring plan with the Board. Trustee Belish commented on how she liked the idea of the "literacy audit" that the school conducted. Sue Belish moved to approve the Baggs Elementary School restructuring plan, seconded by Kathryn Sessions; the motion carried.

Laramie CSD #1 Pioneer Park Elementary, April Gates, Principal, presented the Pioneer Park Elementary School restructuring plan. Kathryn Sessions commented that she likes to substitute teach at the school because there is a high level of respect between students and teachers. Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the plan, seconded by Kathryn Sessions; the motion carried.

Walt Wilcox excused himself from voting on the next plan due to a conflict of interest, as he is an assistant superintendent at Natrona County School District #1. Nate Breen returned as a voting member.

Natrona CSD #1 Midwest School, Chris Tobin and Brian Doner, Principals, discussed with the Board the restructuring plan they created for their school and the unique changes faced by being located 45 miles out of Casper but still in Natrona's district. Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the presented plan, seconded by Belenda Willson; the motion carried.

Dancers from the Arapaho Tribe performed for the State Board of Education

Teton CSD #1 Colter Elementary, Jackson Elementary School, Pam Shea, Superintendent, Pier Trudelle, Principal of Moran Elementary. Sue Belish moved to approve the restructuring plan for Colter Elementary School on receipt of the proper signatures from Teton CSD #1 School Board, Nate Breen seconded; the motion carried.

Walt Wilcox suggested that there be a process established for future restructuring plans and that the WDE provide a recommendation on assurances.

The Board thanked Scott Bullock and the WDE for all the work. It was requested that the restructuring plans come in the same format, with a one or two page executive summary, and a criteria checklist for the Board members to use when reviewing plans in the future.

Linda Barton, the Director of the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance, presented to the Board at the request of Chairman, Pete Gosar. Mrs. Barton described how the Alliance provides resources and technical assistance to local program providers and presented information on the trends with children learning in afterschool settings. Linda Barton asked the Board to contact her with questions and extended an invitation to attend the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance Conference on October 19-20, 2015 in Laramie.

MINDMIXER

Trustee Belish, explained to the Board that every school district in Wyoming has been offered the opportunity to use this platform for one year free of charge. This platform allows you to put information out that will be seen by all the districts. Mrs. Belish said this could be a good tool to reach people, but does not think the Board can make a decision today until the communication strategic plan is developed with a PR firm.

Sue Belish moved to table further discussion on MindMixer until the communication plan is completed, seconded by Kathryn Sessions; the motion carried.

WYOMING CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP (WyCEL) CONTRACT

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, discussed the deliverables within the contract and the Board's desire to move forward with the collaborative council.

The Board agreed that it wanted to postpone part of the deliverables that work directly on the collaborative council. Kathryn Sessions moved to approve the portion of the contract related to the NASBE grant and to omit the sections pertaining to the collaborative council. Additionally, a limit of not to exceed \$2,500 be added into the contract. Sue Belish seconded.

Board member, Sue Belish, said that she does not want to have a discussion on the collaborative council in the June SBE meeting but wished to postpone it for a while. Mrs. Belish felt that this meeting had been filled with collaboration with the districts and the Department. Additionally, she wanted to have a further discussion on the collaborative council when the Board and State Superintendent can all be in the discussion.

The motion carried.

Nate Breen suggested scheduling a monthly meeting on a set rotation and if the meeting is not necessary it can be cancelled. The Board determined that the SBE Administrative Committee will establish the dates and come to the next meeting with a proposed meeting schedule.

The Board discussed and determined the next meeting should start the evening of June 4th starting at 4:00 p.m. for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) training. If there are additional restructuring plans they could present on Friday, June 5th.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Paige Fenton Hughes advised the Board that the contract they would enter into with Pascal Public Relations would be for the one pager that Kelly Pascal presented to the Board the day before in the work session.

Kathryn Sessions moved to accept the contract with Pascal Public Relation for planning, facilitating, and creating a presentation on a communication plan for the State Board, seconded by proxy Dicky Shanor.

Proxy for State Superintendent, Dicky Shanor, had a concern with the projected cost of a survey quoted by Pascal PR, and asked that the SBE communication committee monitor that cost.

Motion carried.

JEC MEETING PREP

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, gave an overview on how the joint meeting between the Joint Education Committee and the State Board of Education came about, and that the meeting is scheduled for June 5th in Saratoga. She noted that they do not wish to have a facilitator and that the co-chairs will run the round table discussion. Paige asked the Board to give suggestions on topics of discussion.

Kathy Coon suggested the conversation be around assessment, early childhood, and support for districts and their work on State Systems of Support and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA).

Sue Belish agreed but additionally felt Native American Education and collaboration should be discussed as well.

Walt Wilcox, wanted the Board to know that the hard work of the districts displayed at this meeting are not isolated incidences and that all districts in the state are working hard for the betterment of students in Wyoming.

OTHER ISSUES, CONCERNS, DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.