

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting
September 12, 2007
HF Bar Ranch, Saddlestring, WY

State Board members present: Bill Anthony, Pam Anderson, Sandy Barton, Matt Garland, Jim Lowham, Dana Mann-Tavegia, Jeff Marsh, Michelle Sullivan, Jan Torres, Jim McBride

State Board Members Absent: Mel Baldwin, Larry McGarvin

Also present: Mary Kay Hill, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE); Jennifer Duncan, WDE; Joe Simpson, WDE; Tom Collins, WDE; John Durkee, WDE; Joy Mockelmann, WDE; Jennifer Stone, Attorney General's Office (AG)

Members of the Press and Public Present: Kathy Scheuerman, Wyoming Education Association (WEA); Kathryn Valido, WEA; Rod Kessler, Johnson County School District #1; Ed Weber, WDE Consultant; Irene Story, WDE Consultant; Cheryl Gettings, WDE Consultant; Anne LaPlante, WDE Consultant; Nyana Sims, WDE Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michelle Sullivan called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Jennifer Duncan conducted roll call, and it was established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT ALL THREE SETS OF MINUTES; MAY 4, JUNE 29 AND AUGUST 13, 2007 BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN WITH A TYPOGRAPHICAL CORRECTION MADE TO THE MAY 4, 2007 MINUTES.

JEFF MARSH SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Larry McGarvin's absence Mary Kay Hill asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. Michelle Sullivan wasn't sure if the report could

be approved without a treasurer. It was determined that the Board is approving the expenditures that have already been made and not the over all budget.

The board budget balance for the period ending on June 30, 2007 is \$199,480.54. A motion was called for to approve the report as presented.

BILL ANTHONY MOVED THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED

JIM MCBRIDE SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STATE SUPERINTENDENTS UPDATE

Jim McBride, State Superintendent, updated the board on activities ongoing within the WDE. He started with reviewing the list of post secondary degree granting institutions that have applied and met the requirements of being accredited within the State of Wyoming. The SBE no longer has that purview but Jim wanted them to see the progress that is being made since this has become a statutory issue. He noted that many institutions have left that found the process too stringent to follow.

He updated the SBE on the recapture/rebate issue that was constitutionally mandated. The ongoing school finance case that was argued in November 2006 is still being reviewed by the state Supreme Court. This issue is over the previous school finance model referred to as the Map model. The new model that has been approved places more than \$40 million dollars in the system over and above the previous model. He also updated the SBE on changes in rules and regulations that change the way the average daily membership (ADM) is calculated for students attending school based on how many periods they attend.

He updated the SBE on upcoming Joint Education Committee (JEC) and School Facilities Commission (SFC) meetings. The upcoming legislative session will be a budget session. Funding increases will be requested in the following areas; laying the ground work for career technical education as developed by MPR Associates, assessment, coordinated school health, and school security.

He reviewed some of the issues with the statewide assessment both in administration of the assessment and with the contract. He congratulated the assessment unit for their hard work to get everything up and running more smoothly for this test administration. The adequate yearly progress (AYP) results were released for districts as well, with improvements in many areas.

Michelle Sullivan asked if the Picus and Odden report had been delivered to the JEC that outlines how the districts are using the money that is being distributed through the funding model. One half of that report has been delivered with the rest upcoming next summer. Mary Kay Hill offered to have Picus and Odden come and talk with the SBE about the funding model and the report.

BOARD UPDATES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Mann-Tavegia briefed the SBE on the Government Affairs meeting in June 2007 with National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). A joint statement with Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governor's Association was issued regarding No Child Left behind (NCLB). She encouraged other members to join the study groups or serve on committees.

Bill Anthony, attended the Leader's Policy Institute put on by WDE in Cheyenne. He provided handouts of the WDE plan for secondary school redesign and on the taxonomy that the WDE is preparing to implement utilizing the course descriptions being used in the Hathaway Success Curriculum.

Jeff Marsh updated the SBE on the SFC meetings and the statewide prioritization that the legislature has requested.

Pam Anderson participated in the WDE Distance Education rules task force. They are reviewing several ways of funding and delivering distance education around the state.

Rod Kessler, Superintendent of Johnson #1 welcomed the SBE to the Ranch. He thanked the WDE, the district's PAWS scores have increased for them for the first time in 10 years. This district was one that was researched by Picus and Odden. Rod served as one of the researchers and he reminded the SBE that this is year one and that things should improve over the upcoming years; the concepts are good and the districts just need to stick it out for 2-3 years to get a good idea of how this model is going to work out and how it will help schools improve. He praised the SFC and the direction they are going in and believes that the changes they are making are good. He asked that the SFC continue to provide the spaces needed for the districts to deliver the curriculum that is required. Teacher endorsement is an issue, especially in rural areas of the state as it is hard to find teachers certified in the many areas that are needed in smaller schools.

BIENNIAL BUDGET 2009-2010

Mary Kay Hill handed out a draft of the SBE budget. She presented what she would like to bring before the Governor's office for the next biennium for the SBE. She is asking for additional funds for an additional face to face meeting; this could be used for in state travel if it is not absorbed by meeting costs. She would like to propose that the funds that were approved for the unfilled part time position be

used to contract out to consultants in specific areas to educate and train the SBE. The SBE budget will be presented to the Governor along with the WDE budget.

JIM MCBRIDE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST AS PRESENTED.

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2007-2008 STATE BOARD MEETINGS

Dates for the upcoming schedule are November 13-14, 2007 in Casper; February 19-20, 2008 in Cheyenne; May 1-2, 2008 in the hometown of the teacher of the year; by teleconference on June 12 and August 7, 2008; in September 2008 in a location and date to be determined by the chairman of the board.

BILL ANTHONY MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2007-2008 SBE MEETING SCHEDULE

DANA MANN-TAVEGIA SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Joe Simpson reviewed the upcoming focus for the November meeting. The main focus will be on the upcoming review of standards. Some items to be discussed will be the cognitive complexity of the standards, or in other words making sure the standards are cognitively and developmentally appropriate, and the accessibility of the standards in language that is understandable by the community.

Other areas to be discussed will be establishing a protocol for board members to answer community concerns and questions. Secondly, what will be the areas of study that will help the board better understand their statutory duties and the areas associated with that? Thirdly, understanding the statutory duties in detail such as accreditation and rule making. Upon reviewing the SBE strategic plan, Joe Simpson identified 20 items that the SBE is interested in receiving information on. He proposed doing a monthly newsletter to inform the SBE about these items as they are handled at the WDE. Another topic of discussion at the November meeting will be standards delivery in a way that is beneficial to the students.

Dana Mann-Tavegia suggested taking 35-40 minutes to have a teambuilding activity.

Joe Simpson suggested holding pre sessions at some point on various subjects that board members can attend at their own discretion. Some suggested topics were

career technical education (MPR Report and implementation), statutory duties, coordinated school health.

Dana Mann-Tavegia noted that the SBE will want to determine in November the legislative items they will want to support in order to provide that support before the during their February meeting in Cheyenne.

Jan Torres asked about the Distance Education plan that will be presented to the JEC and being provided a copy of that task force report. Jim McBride said he would see that she received a copy of it.

INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITATORS PRESENTATION

Joy Mockelmann, WDE and four instructional facilitators from around the state made a presentation about the various ways they are utilizing the instructional facilitator program around the state in the schools. They serve as master teachers and mentors to teachers on staff, help teachers identify new teaching styles as well as some development of material to teach within the curriculum. The facilitators were Ed Weber of Campbell County #1; Irene Story, Laramie County #1; Nyana Sims, Goshen County #1, Cheryl Gettings, Natrona County #1 and Dr. Ann La Plante, Natrona County #1.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sullivan adjourned the meeting at Noon.