

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
July 27, 2015  
GoToMeeting

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Pete Gosar; Belenda Willson; Dicky Shanor, Proxy for Superintendent Balow; Nate Breen; Kathy Coon; Sue Belish; Kathryn Sessions; Scotty Ratliff; Ken Rathbun; Hugh Hageman; Ron Micheli; and Walt Wilcox

Absent: Jim Rose

Also present: Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator; Chelsie Oaks, WDE; Brent Young, WDE; Deb Lindsey, WDE; Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG)

---

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Gosar called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

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

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nate Breen moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Sue Belish; the motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Proxy for Superintendent Balow, Dicky Shanor, moved to approve the meeting minutes from the May 13-14, 2015 meeting & June 5, 2015 meeting; seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

#### COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION COUNCIL FOLLOW UP

Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator, introduced Tracie Bent, the Chief Planning and Policy Officer for the Idaho State Board of Education, and gave a little background on Idaho's version of a collaborative council. The Governor of Idaho initiated the work, but the Idaho State Board of Education was responsible for putting the council together, organizing and reporting. Also, that board was responsible for having committees follow up on different goals of the council. The Idaho State Board of Education is a governing board. Tracie went into detail on how the committees and subcommittees worked and were formed. She mentioned that there was some initial criticism on not having enough people who work in the classroom on the task force and with that, the work that is being done by the council this year is focused on including individuals who are in the

classroom. Ms. Bent offered to answer any questions about the council that the Board had.

Members of the Board had questions on whether the Idaho colleges of education and business members from Idaho were involved in the council, if there are additional lessons that Tracie could share with the Board, and if Idaho's legislature was involved with the council.

Tracie Bent responded that the council did have members from secondary education and a group called the Idaho Business for Education that were heavily involved with the council. And the biggest lesson learned is the continuous reminder to the members of the committees that they are there as representatives of a larger group and that it is important that information is taken back to the groups and that input is received. But the council has been extremely valuable, she doesn't know how other states are structured but the process helped bottom to top communication.

Lastly, she responded that legislators were involved in the task force and the subcommittees and that the legislators were pleased with the process. Overall, there was good engagement from legislators.

Pete Gosar thanked Tracie for her time and for sharing her experience, and if Board members have additional questions, contact Paige for her contact information.

## UPDATES FROM SBE COORDINATOR AND WDE LIAISON

### University Partnership Summer Symposium

The SBE coordinator gave a brief overview on School University Partnership Summer Pre-Symposium and NNER Summer Symposium meetings. Paige Fenton Hughes felt these meetings had good collaborative discussions, especially around Robert Putnam's book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, which the Board will read for discussion at its retreat. Additionally, she thanked Pete Gosar, Board chairman, for giving the welcome speech on behalf of all the education entities around the state.

### Assessment Task Force

Brent Young, WDE Liaison, asked the Board members to turn in their packets to the calendars for the 2015-2016 assessment and asked if the Board had questions on the assessment schedules.

Sue Belish, thanked Brent for providing the big picture of all the assessment schedules but had a question on the accountability system updates. She noticed that there had been a couple of changes to the accountability system that were brought to the Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability. She was curious to know when, why, and who submitted those changes on the accountability system because she serves on the Advisory Committee to the Select Committee and that committee did not recommend those changes.

Deb Lindsey, WDE, gave an overview on the need to present the information to the Select Committee and how the process came about with the WDE accountability team, along with Mike Flicek and consultants from the National Center of Assessment. Dr. Flicek presented the idea of changing the equity indicators to the Select Committee for review and approval for this year, since the Advisory Committee did not have a meeting scheduled.

Dicky Shanor, said that the Department will map out what rules and statutes are in place on the accountability system. He believed that it will help layout who plays what role. Even if the SBE does not play a huge role they would like to know.

Brent Young turned the attention back to the Assessment Task Force and updated the Board on the upcoming meeting in Laramie, July 28-29, 2015. The two goals with two different groups of the meeting are: to look at large scale and statewide assessment and a comprehensive system. Also, they could be looking at much more than just a statewide assessment.

Deb Lindsey, WDE, reviewed the memo she had sent to the Board on the proposed statewide assessment system development timeline and she recommended that the state would stick with the current assessment system until 2018 to create consistency in data and scores.

#### Native American Education

Brent Young presented to the SBE that the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) was asked by the Select Committee on Tribal Relations to draft legislation on Native American Education in Wyoming. A draft was provided in the Board packet. Brent said the next step for the draft legislation is the Legislative Service Office. Also provided in the packet is legislation from other states that were used to help develop the framework for this draft.

Brent Young noted, that this legislation will help bring awareness but it will not be mandated and will be completely voluntary.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION MODULES

Paige Fenton Hughes introduced Ruby Calvert, the Wyoming PBS General Manager. Ms. Calvert presented on the work that Wyoming PBS has been doing on Native American Education and her desire to work in tandem with the WDE/SBE. She believes there is a need for a collaboration scholarly group to work on these issues. She then went into detail describing the online learning modules/videos. Ms. Calvert noted that these videos will align with the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards, that they should be completed in September 2016, and felt that having the producer of these modules attend the SBE retreat in September would be beneficial to the Board. Lastly,

Ruby notified the Board that she will be retiring and introduced her replacement at PBS, Terry Dugas.

## SBE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Board was notified that SBE Committee reports will be on every agenda and that the Board packet will contain actual reports on the meetings held by SBE committees.

Kathryn Sessions reported out for the Accountability Committee and the selection of four new Professional Judgment Panel members to fill vacant spots. The new members included and represented the following categories: Marc LaHiff, school district central office; Kristine Walker, Wyoming post-secondary institutions; Eric Pingrey, principal; and Mary Hoard, public school teacher.

Belenda Willson updated the Board on the dissolution of the P-16 council.

## UPDATE FROM PASCAL PR COMMUNICATIONS

Kelly Pascal Gould gave a brief update on the status of the SBE communication plan. She commented on the conversations she has had with Kari Eakins and Dicky Shanor at the Department and thought it would be necessary to conduct a survey on the public's awareness of the State Board of Education.

Paige Fenton Hughes said that the SBE Communication Committee will be meeting prior to the August 13, 2015 meeting to review the recommended plan before it is submitted to the entire board.

## STATE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

Brent Young, discussed the funding source that would be used to support this state system of support proposal. There is an ETA account with about \$750,000 which ends June 2016. Mr. Young proceeded to review the proposal materials provided in the packet.

Sue Belish, said she liked the collaboration in the proposal but is confused about how the whole system will align and maintain consistency. Sue Belish then asked a series of questions:

Which of the strategies recommended (PLC, ECHO, Principal Academy, Coaching for superintendents and principals, guaranteed and viable curriculum) are voluntary and which are required (for all schools, all leaders, some schools, or some leaders)?. How will the governance structures be aligned?. Will there be an evaluation process to determine how the strategies are working?. What legislative, statutory, or rules and

regulations need to be changed to implement these strategies?. How are all of these proposals aligned with the work of the Accountability Advisory Committee recommendations and with accreditation requirements?. Will the principal and superintendent coaching strategies be aligned to the skills, knowledge, and competencies that are being designed by the Accountability Advisory Committee?. Who will track and supervise the contracts for these services – WDE or SBE?. Will employees hired to do this work be WDE employees (especially the PLC director who is slated to report to the State Superintendent)?. Which strategies are specifically going to be implemented the first year?. How will these efforts align to our collaborative council efforts?.

Brent Young, felt that he could create a memo that would address most of the questions Mrs. Belish had but that some he would not be able to address at this time.

Additional Board members had questions on how much the project would cost, and if the Wyoming Teacher Association is involved.

Brent stated that he was willing to take all the questions asked and make a more specific presentation;he was looking for input from any State Board of Education member.

Kathryn Sessions moved to make the Statewide System of Support an action item on the Board's August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 agenda and that the discussion be given an hour. Seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

## CHAPTER 31 AMENDMENTS

Mackenzie Williams, Board attorney, gave an overview on the Wyoming Department of Education's Chapter 31 rules and regulations on Wyoming graduation requirements, and more specifically, the tiered diploma system and the changes made to it during the recent legislative session.

Paige Fenton Hughes, also gave background on how the local districts are being held accountable and the additional work the tiered diploma system created. She recommended that the Board approve the emergency rules proposed in the Board's meeting packet.

Dicky Shanor, suggested that the Board consider changing the rules to use the "1-12 (one to twelve)" grade bands instead of the "9-12 (nine to twelve)" in the current draft of rules.

Mackenzie Williams did not foresee that change as a problem but recommended that the districts requirements be integrated into the Wyoming Department of Education Chapter 6 Accreditation Rules.

Ken Rathbun moved that the Wyoming Department of Education, on behalf of the State Board of Education, move forward with the promulgation process to adopt Chapter 31 emergency rules with the change from grades 9-12 (nine to twelve) to grades 1-12 (one to twelve). Seconded by Kathryn Session; the motion carried.

Kathryn Sessions moved that the Wyoming Department of Education, on behalf of the State Board of Education, move forward with the promulgation process to adopt Chapter 31 permanent rules with the change from grades 9-12 (nine to twelve) to grades 1-12 (one to twelve). Seconded by Ken Rathbun; the motion carried.

## STANDARDS REVIEW TIMELINE

WDE Liaison, Brent Young, reviewed the proposed standards timeline provided in the packet. Kathryn Sessions moved that the State Board of Education adopt the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards review calendar as presented, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

No public comment was given

Kathy Coon moved to adjourn seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

The State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.