

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 20, 2017

Teleconference

Wyoming State Board of Education members present via Zoom: Walt Wilcox, Ken Rathbun, State Superintendent Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Scotty Ratliff, Kathryn Sessions, Dean Ray Reutzel, Dan McGlade, Max Mickelson, Jim Rose, Belenda Willson, and Robin Schamber.

Members absent: Ryan Fuhrman, Jim Rose, and Nate Breen

Also present: Kylie Taylor, WDE; Lisa Weigel, SBE Liaison; Thomas Sachse, SBE Coordinator; Katherine Leuschel, Attorney General's Office (AG); Kari Eakins, WDE; Julie Magee, WDE; Bill Pannel, WDE; Rob Black, WDE; and Laurel Ballard, WDE.

July 20, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walt Wilcox called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Kylie Taylor conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the June 22, 2017 State Board of Education meeting were presented for approval.

Sue Belish moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Belenda Willson; the motion carried. Robin Schamber abstained from the vote as she was not present at the June meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SBE Treasurer, Ken Rathbun, presented the summary review and expenditures report for the board's budgets, and went over the remaining balances and time left in the current biennium.

Max Mickelson moved to approve the presented Treasurer's Report, Scotty Ratliff seconded; the motion carried.

WYOMING STATE SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

State Superintendent, Jillian Balow, started her update with the status of ESSA, Wyoming's Consolidated State Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act was sent to the Governor's Office on July 3 for his 30-day

review. The Governor has until August 3 to send feedback to the WDE and decide if he would like his signature on the plan for submittal to the US Department of Education.

The WDE's new Chief Policy Officer, Megan Degenfelder, will be starting on August 1. She currently does governmental affairs for Cloud Peak Energy, is a Casper native, former UW Student Body President, and was a classroom teacher in China while she got her master's degree from Beijing University.

The second floor of the Hathaway Building is currently having new carpet installed, which means shuffling workspace for WDE staff. This work should be done early September and the WDE appreciates everyone's patience as we adapt to the temporary work conditions.

BOARD REPORTS, UPDATES & COMMENTS

Coordinator's Report

Tom Sachse, SBE Coordinator, gave his coordinator's report on five comprising items: preparations for the Professional Judgement Panel (PJP); considerations regarding progress on Chapters 6 and 31; forthcoming committee work; orientation of our new representative from the University of Wyoming, Dean Ray Ruetzel; and request for technology assistance.

Preparation for the PJP has been completed, there were new members added to replace those that had moved to different positions. The results and collaboration during the PJP were all positive. PJP members were able to set goal parameters with consensus on every topic.

Amy Starznsky, Foresight Law & Policy, has drafted a letter regarding Chapter 31 that Chairman Wilcox will send to the state attorney general. The letter will be edited to acknowledge the additional help provided by the Governor's office in identifying a strategy that will move the Chapter 31 issue forward. Tom asked board members to submit questions to him regarding Chapter 31 that the Administrative Committee can review and send to the Attorney General's office.

The communications committee has been waiting for Kelly Pascal's contract to be fully executed. Once the contract is executed, Ryan and the committee will review the overall communications plan which was included in the board's packet for review.

Chairman Wilcox asked if there is a way the WDE can look at website activity, such as how many times the website is being visited and what portions of the website are being used the most. Kylie Taylor said she would talk to Kari Eakins regarding that and get back to the board.

There has been discussion with Max regarding the legislative committee and the three likely sources for legislative vehicles proposed by the SBE, these include: recommendations from the July PJP; recommendations that emanate from the entire board discussions of items, such as Chapter 6 revision; and recommendations that come from the Legislative committee itself seeking priorities from the Joint Education Interim Committee.

Tom expressed his technology needs and the requests he has made to the Administrative Committee as well as a conversation he had with Chief of Staff Shanor. It was recommended by Julie Magee that Tom reach out to ETS that is provided through the state for technological issues.

AdvancED Survey Follow-Up

Bill Pannell, WDE, presented to the board on the current accreditation criteria that are in statute. For the past several years, the WDE has contracted with AdvancED to provide external accreditation as a measure of district performance and to promote continuous improvement. However, with recent budget constraints, the WDE is currently evaluating efficiencies and priorities across the agency.

Based on the survey results and the upcoming budget cuts, the WDE is presenting optional approaches for the Board's consideration.

Alternative School Accountability

Julie Magee, WDE, presented on the framework for alternative school accountability, it is comprised of four indicators: Academic Performance, Readiness, Climate, and Engagement.

Academic Performance, just like the current model under WAEA, achievement and growth are part of the alternative school accountability model. The student performance levels will remain the same for achievement until new cut scores are set after Year 2 (2017-18) of the pilot.

The Readiness indicator includes Hathaway eligibility and graduation rate just like the current model. However, credit earning includes credits earned in grades 9, 10, and 11. This is different from the current model in which only credits earned in 9th grade are included.

The alternative school accountability model includes two indicators not present in the current model: Climate and Engagement. Climate will be measured through a student survey, which was administered by all alternative high schools during designated weeks in 2016. The survey contained 20 questions about students' perceptions related to trust, respect, high expectations, and support.

Engagement will be assessed through a Student Success Plan (SSP). The legislature required the inclusion of SSP during the 2016 session. The purpose of SSP is to provide relevant feedback and actionable goals for alternative school students. Each student worked with a mentor at least twice to examine the following: student goals/interests, academic history, attendance rate/history, and post-secondary plans.

Leader Accountability Progress

Laurel Ballard, WDE, talked about the most recent CPES Advisory Panel meeting where they focused on determining standards for leader accountability. After reviewing the national leader standards along with standards developed by other states, the CPES Advisory Panel has determined the standards developed by the Wyoming Advisory Committee to the Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability in 2014 contain much of the same information but are better suited for Wyoming.

After discussions with the Attorney General's Office, it has been determined the State Board of Education must provide school districts with a model comprehensive leader performance evaluation system that districts may choose to adopt or refine. Districts would also have the ability to adopt a different leader evaluation system that must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Indian Education for All Update

Rob Black, WDE, presented on the public meetings that the WDE held for the American Indian Ed for All bill that the legislature passed in the 2017 session. During the meetings, WDE outlined the role of the

committee, the role of the agency, the rules promulgation process, and the timeline for adoption of revised standards. Participants in the meetings were asked to respond to these questions:

1. Why is it important for everyone to learn about American Indians?
2. What do you want the review committee to know about the cultural heritage, history, and contemporary contributions of American Indian as they review the Social Studies Standards?

The meetings took place in Fort Washakie, Riverton, Cody, Sheridan, and Cheyenne. To gain further input, an online survey was offered through a link attached to a news release.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administrative Committee

Sue Belish, SBE, gave an overview of the Administrative Committee meeting that took place on July 6. The committee reviewed the process for approving SBE agenda items as well as reviewed the current draft agenda and made several changes. There are two items that are being reserved for discussion at later SBE meetings, in August the board will discuss clarifying questions about Chapter 31 and graduation requirements. In September the board will discuss additional information about the process of court ordered out-of-state placements.

The admin committee also discussed JEIC reports that are due this fall, the PJP and the progress with planning the meeting on July 13 and 14, and the leadership accountability work.

Tom Sachse, submitted a request for technology support and will create deliverables for the contract. Julie Magee will check on the specifics of SBE contracting as it relates to sole source contracting.

ACTION ITEMS

The action item that was initially put on the draft agenda, technology support contract, was not voted on.

OTHER ITEMS

The board discussed the August meeting and the difficulties surrounding the date due to carpet renovations at the WDE that are causing temporary work spaces. The board agreed to keep the August 11 date but plan to keep it a short work-session.

NEXT MEETING

The Board's next meeting will take place via teleconference on August 11, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.