

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 21-22, 2017
Green River, WY

Wyoming State Board of Education (SBE) members present: Walt Wilcox, Ken Rathbun, Megan Degenfelder, Proxy for State Superintendent Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Scotty Ratliff, Kathryn Sessions, Max Mickelson, Belenda Willson via Zoom, Ryan Fuhrman, Nate Breen, and Robin Schamber, Dan McGlade, Jim Rose via Zoom.

Members absent: Dean Ray Reutzel

Also present: Kylie Taylor, WDE; Julie Magee, SBE Liaison; Thomas Sachse, SBE Coordinator via Zoom; Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG), Shelly Andrews, WDE, Laurie Hernandez, WDE; Laurel Ballard, WDE; Guy Jackson, WDE via Zoom; and Jo Ann Numoto, WDE.

September 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walt Wilcox called the meeting to order at 8:26 a.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sue Belish moved to approve the agenda and to add the retreat to the September agenda, seconded by Max Mickelson; the motion carried.

The SBE started the retreat that focused on several topics that WDE staff and SBE could take a deeper dive into.

The SBE and WDE staff discussed accountability, accreditation, alternative calendars, and reports to the Legislative Services Office.

The retreat ended at 11:00 a.m.

The SBE convened as the State Board of Vocational Education at 11:35 a.m.

Guy Jackson, WDE, presented to the SBE on the US ED Office of Career Technical and Adult Education Perkins monitoring visit for the year of 2016-2017.

Max Mickelson moved to adjourn the State Board of Vocational Education, seconded by Scotty Ratliff; the motion carried.

The SBE convened as the State Board of Education

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the August 11, 2017 State Board of Education meeting were presented for approval.

Max Mickelson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURERS REPORT

SBE Treasurer, Kenny 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.

Chairman Wilcox indicated that the current budget does not reflect what the budget will look like after funds are expended for the National Association of State Board of Education (NASBE) conference in Atlanta. Chairman Wilcox also indicated that Kylie Taylor will be in attendance of the NASBE conference, along with himself, Tom Sachse, Nate Breen, and Ryan Fuhrman.

Ryan Fuhrman motioned to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

WYOMING STATE SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Megan Degenfelder, WDE Chief Policy Office and proxy for Superintendent Balow, reported that Wyoming's Consolidated State Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was submitted to the United States Department of Education (USED) in August. USED will begin their 120-day review of state plans on September 18.

School Performance Reports were publicly released on August 31. Megan says the state saw positive trends with more schools meeting and exceeding expectations.

The work of the UW Trustees Education Initiative (TEI) continues to move forward. Recently, members of the TEI governing board vetted innovation proposals. One approved innovation was classroom simulation technology.

Lastly, Megan reported on the WY-TOPP test the system day, on Tuesday, September 5, many schools participated in a "test the system" day. The purpose of the day was to test the state infrastructure for WY-TOPP with actual student traffic and to give schools an opportunity to interact with the new assessment.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Kylie Taylor, WDE, proxy for Tom Sachse, SBE Coordinator, reported to the SBE the Chapter 31 progress report was submitted to the Joint Education Interim Committee (JEIC) as part of their number two priority item. The memo to the legislature indicates that after four failed attempts to promulgate new Chapter 31 rules, the board elected to ask the Attorney General's office for a formal opinion on whether there is a constitutional (or judicial) requirement that graduation requirements are similar from school to school around the state.

Kylie informed the SBE on the post-secondary readiness report that was sent to the LSO on August 15 as required. This report cites the recommendations from the July professional judgment panel (PJP), based on the recommendations the advisory committee maintained the provisional opportunity level of Hathaway but did change the interim targets from annual to every three years.

The last item reported on was the PJP report drafted by Tom, this report is not required by the LSO, the report has been reviewed by the administrative committee and will be voted on by the entire board.

BOARD REPORTS, UPDATES & COMMENTS

State Systems of Support Update

Shelly Andrews, WDE, with contractors from Education Northwest, a nonprofit corporation with expertise in systems of support presented on an evaluation that was conducted during the 2016-17 school year. The report provides information about the implementation of the programs and recommendations for continuation, revision, and improvement.

School Performance Ratings and WAEA Informal Review

Julie Magee, SBE Liaison, indicated that on September 1, 2017, the 2016-17 school performance ratings were submitted to the LSO. The WAEA Accountability Report summarizes the results of Wyoming schools' performance in the 2016-17 school year. Additionally, three-year performance summaries for grades 3-8, high school, and all schools were provided to the board for reference.

Sue Belish and Julie Magee discussed using a different protocol moving forward when submitting LSO reports on behalf of the SBE, as the SBE would like to see what is being submitted.

W.S. 21-2-204(d) allows schools to seek an informal review of the overall SRP or other performance determination. The process for informal reviews is outlined in the Chapter 3 rules. The WDE has received on request for an informal review from Upton High School in Weston County School District #7. On September 13, the WDE held a follow-up conversation with the principal and superintendent, and WDE staff are continuing to work through the review process.

Standards Update

Laurie Hernandez, WDE; Barb Marquer, WDE; and Rob Black, WDE, presented to the board on the work the standards team has been doing.

The math standards review committee (MSRC) reviewed the current standards, identified areas to revise those standards, and has met consensus in grade-band committees and grade-level committees. The MSRC also met whole group consensus for alignment on the proposed standards for grades K-7.

The sciences extended standards review committee (SESRC) reviewed the current science standards and decided to revise them making them accessible to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The SESRC met consensus on their review of the proposed standards for K-5 and for physical science in grades 7-12.

A call for participation on the social studies standards review committee is scheduled for September 18. That committee will be formed in October and will have their first committee meeting by early December.

Media Options

Paula Smith, WDE, presented a variety of different media options for the SBE to consider in replacing aged technology that is currently being used. Paula gave pros and cons to each options and also had physical examples that board members were able to pass around.

Leader Evaluation/Chapter 29

Laurel Ballard, WDE, presented on the effort that the WDE is doing for Certified Personnel Evaluation System (CPES) to make recommendations on the leadership evaluation system and revisions to Chapter 29 rules. The CPES Advisory Panel held its most recent meeting on September 7, where they started work on the revisions being made to Chapter 29 Rules. The CPES Advisory Panel will continue revising Chapter 29 Rules and begin receiving feedback before finalizing the rules, standards and evaluation system components for SBE approval for promulgation.

Laurel walked the SBE through Chapter 29 and the changes that were made.

Chairman Wilcox suggested that Laurel present Chapter 41 on Friday morning due to time constraints. SBE members agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bill Winney, spoke on the importance of a good evaluation system for school and district leaders and made a suggestion for a ranking system.
- Brian Farmer, Executive Director, Wyoming School Board Association, made a comment to the SBE regarding Chapter 29 and urged to be careful when moving forward in this process because there is still a fair amount of work yet to be done and this is just the process.
- Donna Little-Kumo, Sweetwater County School District #2 Superintendent, made a comment regarding the performance ratings and expressed the problem she has with participation being a part of performance ratings. Schools don't have control when parents don't want kids testing. Also mentioned that districts aren't informed with everything regarding leader evaluation.

Board Recessed at 5:24 p.m.

September 22, 2017

State Board of Education reconvened at 8:02 a.m.

Virtual Education/Chapter 41

Laurel Ballard, WDE, gave an overview of what the WDE has been working on with the Virtual Education Advisory Committee to develop rules for the extensive changes made to virtual education during 2017 legislative session. The legislation requires the WDE to consult with the Professional Teaching Standards Board and SBE as rules are developed.

Donna Little-Kumo, Sweetwater County School District #2 Superintendent, presented to the SBE on the schools in Sweetwater #2 and their performance ratings and where the schools are at currently. "Learning for all" is the mission for Sweetwater #2.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Communications Committee

Ryan Fuhrman, referred to the communications committee minutes from September 5 and the communications plan that he passed around to board members. The communications committee reviewed Kelly's contract, put together communications priorities for the fall, website metrics, website edits, and the communications plan which included inviting key stakeholders to SBE meetings.

Administrative Committee

Sue Belish, went over what the administrative committee discussed on September 13. The committee decided on topics for the SBE retreat and approved the agenda for the September SBE meeting. The committee also reviewed the PJP report that SBE Coordinator, Tom Sachse drafted. The committee agreed to have Tom send to all SBE members and submit to JEIC with a disclaimer that the board would be reviewing the report during their September meeting.

JEIC reporting protocol was also discussed, with reporting deadlines and reduction of Tom's time, the need for the SBE as an entity to officially approve reports submitted on the board's behalf was the topic of discussion. It was agreed that this would be further discussed during the September meeting.

Sue reported on the WAEA informal review process that Julie Magee presented to the administrative committee and how due to strict timelines with this process the board might need to schedule two meetings in October.

The administrative committee discussed the possibility of changing the October meeting day from October 5 to October 12. This request was made because of the short time frame between meetings and possible WAEA appeal.

Legislative Committee

Max Mickelson reported to the board on the legislative committee meeting that was held on August 31. The legislative committee discussed statutory reporting requirements, Julie Magee will create a list of all reports requirements. Committee members held a discussion regarding the nature and limitations of executive branch boards regarding legislation, legislators, and legislature. Committee members provided their understanding of the limits and the committee asked to bring the topic before the SBE.

Finance Committee

Chairman Wilcox and Kenny Rathbun indicated that although this committee hasn't met, Kenny is in the process of working to get this committee together to review SBE funds and expenditures.

ACTION ITEMS

Potential Provider for Court Ordered Placement of Students

Jo Ann Numoto, WDE, recommended that the SBE designate Rite of Passage dba Meadowlark Academy as an approved facility for court ordered placement of students and subsequent educational payments pursuant to Wyoming Statute 21-13-315.

Sue Belish motioned to approve Meadowlark Academy as an approved facility for court ordered placement of students, seconded by Max Mickelson; the motion carried.

October SBE Meeting Date Change

Chairman Wilcox motioned for the board to move the October SBE meeting from October 5 to October 18, seconded by Sue Belish; the motion carried.

PJP Report

Kathryn Sessions motioned for the board to approve the PJP report, seconded by Max Mickelson; the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Stan Blake, State of Wyoming Representative for House District 39, thanked the SBE and Max for the invitation to attend the meeting and thanked the board for the work they do for Wyoming children.

NEXT MEETING

The Board's next meeting will take place October 18, 2017 via teleconference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.