

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 18, 2017
Teleconference

Wyoming State Board of Education members present via Zoom: Walt Wilcox, Ken Rathbun, State Superintendent Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Scotty Ratliff, Nate Breen, Ryan Fuhrman, Dean Ray Reutzel, Dan McGLade, Max Mickelson, Belenda Willson, and Robin Schamber.

Members absent: Jim Rose and Kathryn Sessions

Also present: Kylie Taylor, WDE; Julie Magee, WDE; Megan Degenfelder, Kari Eakins, WDE; Thomas Sachse, SBE Coordinator; and Adam Leuschel, Attorney General's Office (AG).

October 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walt Wilcox called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Superintendent Balow moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ken Rathbun; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 21-22, 2017 State Board of Education meeting in Green River were presented for approval.

Max Mickelson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Superintendent Balow; the motion carried.

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. Ken gave an update on the remaining balances and said that they may look diminished because NASBE dues were paid which accounted for \$20,000.

Ken also clarified that this report looks different than they have in the last biennium because the SBE Coordinator's salary comes out of SBE budget now rather than the WDE's budget.

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

BOARD REPORTS, UPDATES & COMMENTS

Coordinator's Report

Tom Sachse, SBE Coordinator, started his report by giving an update on the Chapter 31 progress and an overview of the report he gave to the Joint Education Interim Committee in September. During the last SBE Administrative Committee meeting Tom was asked to contact Mike O'Donnell from the AG's Office regarding the formal opinion that the SBE has asked the AG's Office to give regarding Chapter 31. Mike O'Donnell confirmed that the AG would offer an opinion and the SBE is still waiting to receive that opinion.

Tom provided a rubric for the SBE to review regarding purchasing technology for board members. The SBE will likely vote on a piece of technology during November's meeting.

The Administrative Committee asked Tom to develop a plan to investigate the impacts of the Alternative Calendar the board approves annually. Tom provided his plan for doing so and presented that it is likely that the number of schools involved would not have any statistical significance.

Update: Weston #7 Informal Review Request

Julie Magee, WDE, informed the board that the district superintendent for Weston #7 waived the 30-day timeline for an informal hearing in order to accommodate the SBE's meeting schedule. Therefore, the informal hearing will take place during the board's November 17th meeting. The informal hearing will be open to the public unless the discussion will lead to the disclosure of individual student information.

The district superintendent will notify the WDE within seven days of the informal hearing if she wishes to waive her right to appear, in which case, the SBE will rely solely on the documents submitted with the WDE's recommendation on October 23rd.

Sue Belish asked if the meeting needs to be take place in executive session. Adam Leuschel, AG's Office, indicated that it does not need to be part of a separate meeting.

Sue asked if the school district receives the WDE's recommendation at the same as the SBE does, and if not, could they to remain transparent. Sue also asked if all documents were allowed to be included in the board's packet for the November meeting.

Adam Leuschel indicated that he was unsure but would look into it and let everyone know.

Volunteers for Computer Science Task Force and Virtual Education Task Force

Kari Eakins, WDE, presented to the board on the details of the computer science task force and the virtual education task force. Including, when they will meet, if the meetings will be in person or via teleconference, and asked if there were any board members that had a desire to sit on either task force.

Chairman Wilcox said for any members that were interested to get back to him or Kylie Taylor.

Protocol for LSO Reports

Julie Magee created a matrix for the SBE to refer to when LSO reports are due. Within the matrix are columns indicating who the report is assigned to and if the report is informational or recommendation.

Max Mickelson praised Julie for creating the matrix and said it was perfect.

Sue Belish also praised Julie and indicated that informational reports do not need to be approved by the board, just sent to the board when sent to the LSO.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administrative Committee

Sue Belish, SBE, said there wasn't anything more to discuss regarding the minutes that are included in the packet.

Superintendent Balow asked if the minutes for this meeting could better reflect the happenings by indicating that there was communication between the SBE Treasurer, Ken Rathbun, and the WDE regarding SBE budget and at the time of the communication there were no objections made.

Ken Rathbun specified that maybe he was mistaken and said that he did have a conversation with Trent Carroll from the WDE earlier in the summer and talked about the fact that the SBE budget review was coming up but was unaware of anything formal. Ken apologized and said he didn't remember being included in the formal process.

Superintendent Balow indicated that in no way did she mean to call out a single person, she just wanted to make sure that it was known that the WDE followed the same process that they have in the past on making sure that the process is leveraged as much as possible.

Sue Belish said that she has no problem with making that change to the minutes and said that the Administrative Committee had a productive meeting with Trent Carroll yesterday as well as had a number of issued clarified regarding the SBE budget. Sue also said that Trent agreed to present to the board on the SBE budget.

Communications Committee

Ryan Fuhrman, SBE, gave an overview of the Communications Committee meeting held on October 5th. The committee discussed inviting key stakeholders to teleconference meetings and potentially asking they give a presentation. Kari will send out survey regarding technology purchasing options, once all surveys have been completed the Communications Committee with review results.

Sue Belish expressed support for inviting key stakeholders but suggested the board wait until January before inviting anyone.

Budget Committee

Ken Rathbun, SBE, gave an official overview over the entire SBE budget including: the SBE Coordinator's salary, professional services contract, professional development training, Professional Judgement Panel funds, and the transfer of funds from one series to another. Ken said that overall an increase is shown and going forward the board will have an opportunity of adjustments.

The board decided to take an overall vote on approving the SBE's budge.

Belenda Willson moved to approve the SBE budget, seconded by Dan McGlade, the motion carried.

Superintendent Balow acknowledged the board's vote to approve the budget moving forward, but added that what the board is voting on is unprecedented as the board typically doesn't approve the budget in a vote, but the board can move budgets around and make changes that way.

Chairman Wilcox agreed with Superintendent Balow.

OTHER ITEMS

Chairman Wilcox gave an open invitation to anyone that is interested in attending the November meeting in Casper.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Angela Jones, Green River, expressed concern in regards to the proposal to shut down Jackson Elementary in Green River, WY. Angela indicated that this would cause students to be crossing town to a different elementary school and is not conducive.
- Ciara Burch, Green River, also expressed concern to the proposal of Jackson Elementary shutting down.

NEXT MEETING

The Board's next meeting will take place via teleconference on November 17, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.