



WYOMING

State Board of Education

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor
2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0050
(307) 777-6213 • (307) 777-6234 FAX

PETE GOSAR
Chair, Laramie

KATHY COON
Vice Chair, Lusk

KEN RATHBUN
Treasurer, Sundance

JILLIAN BALOW
State Superintendent

SUE BELISH
Ranchester

NATE BREEN
Cheyenne

HUGH HAGEMAN
Fort Laramie

RON MICHELI
Fort Bridger

SCOTTY RATLIFF
Riverton

JIM ROSE
Ex-Officio, CCC

KATHRYN SESSIONS
Cheyenne

WALT WILCOX
Casper

BELENDA WILLSON
Thermopolis

CHELSE OAKS
Executive Assistant

For Immediate Release:

August 17, 2015

Contact:

Paige Fenton Hughes

(307) 349-4506

paige.fentonhughes@gmail.com

Communication and Support Highlight State Board Action

Cheyenne– The Wyoming State Board of Education took steps toward engaging the public by considering a comprehensive communication plan during their meeting on August 13. Kelly Pascal Gould of Pascal Public Relations presented informal survey data, which shows the need to better communicate the board's role. The board then discussed an array of recommendations to improve communication, and include more people involved in education across the state.

"Communication and engagement are key," said State Board Chairman Pete Gosar. "The State Board hopes for more stakeholder input in the future."

During the meeting the board also decided to move forward with a statewide system of support for school districts, by approving a strategic planning element and two integral pilot components. This plan includes participation from key education leaders in the state, such as the Wyoming Center for Educational Leadership (WyCEL) at the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Association of School Administrators (WASA), and the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE).

The board has expressed concerns that the school accountability model has been in place for several years without the support component required to help schools develop the capacity to meet the rigorous targets outlined in the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act. Chairman Gosar commended the WDE, WyCEL, and WASA for collaborating to bring forward professional development and technical assistance options for the board's consideration. Collaboration will continue as the strategic plan is developed, and other elements of the system are refined.

The board also approved restructuring plans for Aspen Elementary in Evanston and Fort Washakie Middle School, approved a set of draft rules for schools to request a review of their accountability determinations, and allowed updates to requested changes in teacher evaluation systems. The meeting also included updates on the work of the statewide Assessment Task Force, the Science Standards Review Committee, and the Professional Judgment Panel.

The board's next meeting will be held September 23-25 in Pinedale.

-END-