

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting
April 16, 2009
Campbell County School District #1
Gillette, WY

State Board members present: Bill Anthony, Sandy Barton, Matt Garland, Mike Hejtmanek, Jim McBride, Larry McGarvin, Dana Mann-Tavegia , Joe Reichardt, Jan Torres

State Board Members Absent: Pam Anderson, Norine Kasperik, Phil Orton

Also present: Mary Kay Hill, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE); Joe Simpson, WDE; Jennifer Duncan, WDE; John Shumway, Attorney General's Office (AG); Billie Van Landingham, WDE

Members of the Press and Public Present: Michael Johnson, Gillette News-Record; Richard Strahorn, Campbell County School District #1 (CCSD #1); Don Dihle, CCSD #1; Alice King, 2009 Wyoming Teacher of the Year.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Anthony called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of Joshua Ringer the student killed in a bus accident.

Jennifer Duncan called the roll and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2009 MEETING BE APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

JIM MCBRIDE SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the period ending February 28, 2009 reflected a balance of \$175,917.26. Jan Torres presented the report.

JAN TORRES MOVED TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION

Chairman Anthony asked about providing a more consolidated report. Jennifer Duncan said she would work with the WDE Finance Unit to produce a report that shows the totals and expenditures from one report to another only.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Jim McBride addressed the board. The PAWS window has closed and statewide testing is complete. The process improved over past years and most issues were at a local district issue and involved firewalls, etc.

Financial issues are a big concern with the Federal Stimulus monies being issued along with the energy resources not producing what they previously had to provide income for the state. The Governor has put a hiring freeze on the State in order to plan for the upcoming financial hardships that will hit the state in the next 18 months. State agencies have been asked to reduce their budgets by 5-10%.

School district accreditation is an ongoing issue with several districts in the state being in the position of being downgraded in their status. The Superintendent’s Advisory Groups consisting of representatives from several education entities as well as Chairman Anthony decided that lowering or raising accreditation status is a good way to encourage the districts to work on their problems.

He thanked Superintendent Strahorn for his hospitality to the Board in the district and complimented him on Alice King being such an exemplary teacher and role model.

CHAPTER 32 RULE WRITING PROGRESSION MOTION

Superintendent McBride asked the board to open their discussion up to how they would like to see the process of promulgating rules and regulations regarding charter schools.

JIM MCBRIDE MOVED THAT THE BOARD POSTPONE UNTIL THE JUNE MEETING ANY FORMAL ACTION ON CHAPTER 32 RULES, CHARTER SCHOOLS

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION

Dana asked if the board should add to the motion the comments about taking the rules to the stakeholders. Jim reassured her that process is already happening informally and will occur on a formal basis during the public comment period during the promulgation process.

The board wants to make sure that the rules they will see in June will be the final rules for the charter school and that all facets of the charter school application process and functioning will be considered.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Mann-Tavegia updated the board on the NASBE legislative conference held in March 2009. She also attended a symposium on childhood obesity. She attended a reception during which NASBE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Army. U.S. The Army Accessions Command wishes to provide a cooperative framework in order to get students ready when they graduate to move into the armed forces. She encouraged new board members to attend the new member institute in July, 2009 as well as the annual conference in October.

Bill Anthony thanked the board for their support in writing the letter to NASBE to support Dana in her nomination to be NASBE president.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESTRUCTURING REPORTS

Billie Van Landingham and Joe Simpson briefed the board on the status of the restructuring plans put forth by Johnson Jr. High in Laramie County School District #1 and Rawlins Cooperative High School in Carbon County School District #1. The process is required by NCLB for schools that do not meet AYP for several years in a row. The schools' final plans are being presented to their local boards in April and will come before the state board during their June meeting if the local boards approve them. Both schools and districts understand that this is a feeder school problem and that the issues need to be addressed well down the line in elementary school as early as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade.

CHAPTER 29 CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RULES & REGULATIONS

Joe Simpson and Billie Van Landingham updated the board on the status of the Chapter 29 rules and regulations for certified personnel evaluation. The task force made sure to follow the preamble that the board authored regarding their desires for the rules and regulations outlining this process. She reviewed with the board a strike and underscore version of the rules showing the changes from the old rules, now in place, and the proposed new rules. The WDE is working with the idea of working with districts to come up with an evaluation that can be used statewide.

DANA MANN-TAVEGIA MOVED THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED THE PROPOSED TIMELINE WITH FINAL PROPOSED RULE BEING PRESENTED TO THE BOARD AT THEIR LATE SUMMER/EARLY FALL MEETING

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #21 & 38 ACCREDITATION STATUS REPORT

Joe Simpson reported the status of Fremont County School Districts #21 and #38, both of whom may receive a reduced level of accreditation due to infractions of the accreditation standards set forth by NCA. The WDE has been providing technical assistance to both these districts for more than a year. The leaders of the districts and their school boards will be in attendance at the June board meeting, which will be the meeting at which school districts are accredited.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR VISIT

The board visited with 2009 Wyoming Teacher of the Year Alice King. Alice teaches English in Campbell County School District #1 at Campbell County High School.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Anthony adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.