

**MINUTES**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 4, 2009**  
**Wyoming Department of Education, Room 181**  
**Cheyenne, WY**

State Board members present: Michelle Sullivan, Bill Anthony, Pamala Anderson, Matt Garland, Jeff Marsh, Jim Lowham, Jim McBride, Sandy Barton, Dana Mann-Tavegia , Jan Torres

State Board Members Absent: Larry McGarvin

Also present: Mary Kay Hill, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE); Joe Simpson, WDE; Jennifer Duncan, WDE; John Shumway, Attorney General's Office (AG); Fred Hansen, WDE; JoAnn Numoto, WDE; Brian Wright, WDE; Joy Mockelmann, WDE; Alan Moore, WDE; Tom Collins, WDE; Gerry Maas, WDE

Members of the Press and Public Present: Kathy Scheurman, Wyoming Education Association (WEA); Diana Clapp, Fremont County School District #6; Susan Campbell, Carbon County School District #1 (CCSD #1); Rich Taedter, CCSD #1; Tracy Kinney, CCSD #1; Brent Young, Laramie County School District #1 (LCSD #1); John Balow, LCSD #1

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jim Lowham called the meeting to order at 8: 30 a.m.

Jennifer Duncan conducted the roll call and established that there was a quorum present.

**BILL ANTHONY MOVED THAT THE BOARD CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM THE BOARD'S APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**JAN TORRES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairman Jim Lowham adjourned the executive session and convened the regular business meeting at 9: 30 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MICHELLE SULLIVAN MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2009 MEETING HELD IN CASPER AS WRITTEN

DANA MANN-TAVEGIA SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer's report for the period ending December 31, 2008 reflected a balance of \$184,384.91. Jan Torres presented the report.

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

BILL ANTHONY SECONDED THE MOTION

Michelle Sullivan inquired on the vendor Jai Jai Mata Hospitality. Jennifer Duncan responded that is corporate name for the Hilton Garden Inn in Casper.

Dana Mann-Tavegia asked for confirmation that the charge to Kistler Tent & Awning was for the table rentals for the last discussion session. Jennifer also confirmed that charge.

Sandy Barton asked if the charges to National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) were for conferences. Jennifer Duncan confirmed that the charges were for John Shumway and her when they attended the annual conference.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent McBride reviewed the WDE Strategic Plan which outlines 3 goals that were created together with the SBE; Improve Student Performance, Ensure Efficient and Effective Operations, and to Ensure Safe, Orderly, and Healthful School Environments and the strategies and performance measures that will help achieve the goals.

Joe Simpson explained the McRel customer service survey that was conducted in six areas around the state to help the WDE see how they are performing as far as customer service to the districts and various education stakeholders around the

state. McRel is a regional education lab that provides services such as gathering data and reporting out on the results.

## **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Lowham reported on the National Governor's Association meeting in December. 16 states participated. One subject that was discussed was standards for professionals and different certifications. He would like to see this as a continuing discussion with the Board in conjunction with their statutory duties

Dana Mann-Tavegia reported on the NASBE Government Affairs committee meeting. She passed out a letter from NASBE addressed to the Senate leadership on the Education committee addressing the education portion of the stimulus package. She encouraged the Board to draft their own letter to the committee. She also encouraged participation in the NASBE study groups.

## **COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER APPROVAL**

Fred Hansen, WDE, presented Coastal Harbor Treatment Center as an approved residential treatment facility for court ordered placements. The center is located in Savannah, GA and provides specialized care for individuals that also need physical therapy in addition to educational services. No facility in the state is equipped to handle this type of treatment. Fred inspected the facility in December and was impressed with the facility and the education program. A Wyoming student has been placed there.

**DANA MANN-TAVEGIA MOVED THAT THIS FACILITY BE APPROVED AS A COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER.**

**BILL ANTHONY SECONDED THE MOTION**

Sandy Barton asked how long the student would be there. Fred indicated that he could be there as long as a year; parents are flown out occasionally.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **STANDARDS REPORT**

Alan Moore and Tom Collins, WDE, reviewed the 2008-2013 Wyoming Standards Revision Cycle. All content areas will be systematically reviewed over the next five years. Upon the recommendation of the Standards Framers Committee, McRel was hired as a contract vendor to provide guidance and professional development for committees during the review process in all content areas of the standards.

Joe Simpson updated the board on the status of a potential standards consortium amongst Western states. McRel will facilitate 3 meetings a year between the

states to determine commonalities to potentially develop standards for the Western area.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the standards, regional standards compact,

## **SCHOOL RESTRUCTURING REPORT**

LCSD #1 presented initially. Brent Young and John Balow, principal of Johnson Junior High School, presented the next phase of their plan for restructuring due to not meeting AYP standards set forth by NCLB.

They are implementing smaller learning communities; dividing into smaller grade level groups called cores. Grade level cores will have a minimum of one teacher in these areas: language arts, science, math, social studies and a special education. Smaller groups will be created within the grade level cores. One teacher will be assigned to each of these cores of approximately 80 students. Each week collaboration time is provided for teams to meet and discuss individual student information. This will provide interdisciplinary planning and instruction, autonomy and identity for students and staff, quick adjustment to interventions and instruction for individual students, and provide a system of accountability and ownership by focusing on results and transparency.

Brent Young indicated that they are starting to work with the feeder schools to Johnson Junior High with their learning communities since the problems probably begin much earlier than just at the junior high level.

Tracy Kinney and Rich Taedter representing Rawlins Cooperative High School presented the progress of their restructuring plans to the board. The district has decided that the intervention should start in elementary school. The district has decided that this process should be also applied at the district level to have influence over all grade levels in order to increase the graduation rate at the high school.

They have applied for a grant which can provide funds for extra teaching hours for extended day, evening classes and Saturday school. They are also providing some incentives for the students when they do well i.e. school pride clothing, monetary or gift cards, etc. They have also implemented Graduation Acceleration Sessions (GAS) on Wednesday evenings. Students on academic probation are required to attend.

Final plans must be presented to the local school boards by the end of March for action then they will be brought before the state board for review and action.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

DANA-MANN-TAVEGIA MOVED THAT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS BE PLACED INTO NOMINATION FOR THE POSITIONS BEING ELECTED; BILL ANTHONY, CHAIRMAN; SANDY BARTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN; AND JAN TORRES, TREASURER.

JEFF MARSH SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PAM ANDERSON MOVED THAT THE SLATE OF OFFICERS THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BE APPROVED AS THE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE STATE BOARD.

MATT GARLAND SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman-elect Anthony adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.