

MINUTES
State Board of Education Regular Meeting
January 30, 2007
Laramie County School District #1, Cheyenne, WY

Board members present: Ruby Calvert, Michelle Sullivan, Larry McGarvin, Bill Anthony, Sandy Barton, Duane Edmonds, Jim Lowham, Dana Mann-Tavegia, Jeff Marsh, Jan Torres, Jim McBride

Board members absent: Mel Baldwin

Also present: Mary Kay Hill, Department of Education (WDE); Jennifer Duncan, Board Executive Assistant, WDE; Nathaniel Castellanos, WDE; Gerry Maas, WDE; Dianne Bailey, WDE; Teri Frazier, WDE; Teri Wigert, WDE; Diane Frazer, WDE; Tania Hytrek, WDE; Jennifer Stone, Wyoming Attorney General's (AG) Office

Members of the public and press present for portions of the meeting: Kathy Scheurman, Wyoming Education Association (WEA); Anne Beckle, Laramie County School District #1 (LCSD #1); Georgia Befus, LCSD #1; Merle Smith, Laramie County School District #2 (LCSD #2); Margie Simineo, LCSD #2; Lee Neely, LCSD #1; Becky Orr, Wyoming Tribune Eagle; Dawn Wiley, Normative Services; Davey Hough, Wyoming Advisory Council for Students with Disabilities; Brent Young, Buffalo Ridge Elementary (former State Board member)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ruby Calvert called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Calvert would like to add two items to the agenda during the Board comments portion of the meeting:

Board Resolution regarding the Success Curriculum
21st Century America Meeting
Screening for part time Board position

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 15, 2006 regular meeting were reviewed for approval.

DUANE EDMONDS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 15, 2006 HELD AT NATRONA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1, CASPER, WYOMING AS AMENDED

JAN TORRES SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Larry McGarvin presented the treasurer's report. He reported that there was nothing extraordinary. There is a balance of \$ 223853.06

BILL ANTHONY MOVED THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION

Jeff Marsh asked about the difference between utilities and telecommunications and what is coded in those categories. Jennifer Duncan will research that and move the appropriated funds to the correct budget line item to cover the telecommunications.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Jim McBride addressed the Board. He reported that the legislative session was not focusing on school finance as it has in the last 10 years. He is very pleased about summer school, extended day, instructional facilitators and the funding that is available for that outside the model. He has been frustrated about the attacks on the Success Curriculum but feels that the WDE will come out with something the same if not very close to the original.

There will be a high number of teachers retiring in the next 5 years. He would like to see more community colleges offer an Associates of Art in Education degree that would help encourage students to go into that field and then return to their communities to teach upon receiving their degree. Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington currently offers this degree.

He feels very positive about the Board's work with the WDE Health and Safety Unit to make sure students are capitalizing on their learning experience by having the correct environment. This is part of the Board strategic plan goal to start on coordinated school health in each district.

He also talked about an integrated language arts program that begins in 1st grade to teach our kids a working vocabulary in Spanish, which is quickly becoming a predominant language in the United States.

On the issue of online education, Superintendent McBride would like to present it in a way that won't hurt traditional enrollment but will be a benefit to the children of our state. It will be the delivery method for the Success Curriculum to smaller districts that may not have all of the teachers and classes available on site.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dana Mann-Tavegia reminded the board of the upcoming National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) legislative conference in March. She asked that the board provide a statement regarding the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Dana attended the Government Affairs Committee meeting in January. She reported on several entities and their concerns with No Child Left Behind as well as upcoming national legislative issues. She indicated that there is a fair amount of bi-partisan support for national standards and benchmarks. They are also looking at the definition of a master teacher as well as the qualifications to be a highly qualified teacher on a national level.

Dana also requested that the Board think of potential nominees for NASBE Policy Leader of the Year, Friend of Education and Distinguished Service Awards.

Duane Edmonds brought to the Board's attention all the work that Dana does with NASBE and what a benefit it is to our state to have on the committees she serves on.

Duane Edmonds had sent a report on the Perkins Reauthorization meeting that he attended. He recognized Teri Wigert, WDE, and her Unit for presenting an informative meeting.

The Board discussed many options to provide the possibility of having a student serve on the State Board. Although it would require legislative change, many options were offered up as well as ideas for the supporting structure of the position.

Chairman Calvert reported that several applications had been received for the policy analyst position with the Board. She asked for volunteers for the interview committee. Joe Simpson asked that the Board come up with questions and that the WDE follow the standard hiring process and do interviews by telephone then on - site interviews for the final selectees.

Chairman Calvert also asked if any board members were interested in attending the Public Schools in 21st Century America Summit. Michelle Sullivan indicated that she would be able to attend.

Jeff Marsh reported that the School Facilities Commission has put a new evaluation process for new schools and they have hired a new firm for that. Jim McBride noted that this will be good as it will remove the emotion from the decisions and provide a concrete process for evaluation.

YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Nathaniel Castellanos, WDE, presented the results of the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The purpose of the presentation was to present some factors that are mitigating in Wyoming student's school performance.

COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH

Gerry Maas reviewed the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (PNA) as part of the Department's efforts to encourage district coordinated school health for all districts. This survey goes beyond the risky activities and answers the question about why these activities are going on. He reviewed subjects such as poor family management, conflict in the home, and parents supporting anti-social behavior. He went on to show that the Model School Conference focused on the relationship building in the schools, which seems to be missing in many schools. Schools need partners to provide coordinated school health within their districts.

Georgia Befus and Lee Neely with Laramie County School District #1 in the coordinated health area were on hand to answer questions from the Board. Both were concerned with the lack of physical activity required during the school day as well as drug usage.

STANDARDS REVISION

John Durkee, WDE, updated the Board on the upcoming standards revision that needs to take place next year. Every 5 years each of the nine content areas within the standards need to be reviewed. He presented the entire project and how it will affect districts and the WDE.

There will be two task forces made up of district curriculum coordinators. One will review the standards themselves and the other district body of evidence systems and assessment. From this information, technical support will be provided from the WDE to the districts.

The first part will consist of finding out where the national standards are now. Then there will be recommendations for revisions - teachers, parents and community members will have input on these. Finally, the impact of the changes on districts will be evaluated then the final recommended standards will be presented to the Board for their approval in summer of 2008.

APPROVE AMENDED BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (BOCES) APPLICATION BETWEEN UINTA #1 AND WESTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jennifer Stone, AG, presented the order for the amended BOCES agreement between Uinta #1 and Western Wyoming College. The agreement meets the statutory requirements and she recommended that the board approve it.

JEFF MARSH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED BOCES AGREEMENT BETWEEN UINTA #1 AND WESTERN WYOMING COLLEGE.

Dana Mann-Tavegia asked what the change was. Jennifer Stone indicated it was a matter of a funding question by a constituent as far as using money from one year to the next. This change was made and the agreement re-written.

JAN TORRES SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

Dianne Frazer, WDE, and Tania Hytrek, WDE presented the Board with the updated process for charter school application. A template has been developed that will make the process of applying to be a charter school more user friendly. Having a more concrete process will enhance the relationship between the proposed charter school and the local board of trustees that they will be applying to by preparing the board for the receipt of the application. Dianne reviewed situations in which a school can apply for charter status, what situations may not apply and situations where a waiver can be applied for. Applications that are refused by the local board may be appealed to the State Board for review. The charters are reviewed every 2 years by the State Board and each district with a charter school must provide an annual report on that school to the State Board. This entire packet, when finished, will be available on the WDE website.

COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER (COPS) APPROVAL

Teri Frazier, WDE, presented the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch for Board approval as a court ordered placement provider. Yellowstone has been a previous COPS provider since 1999; their facility and staff have been upgraded. There are 7 Wyoming students currently placed at this facility. There is a facility visit from the WDE scheduled in March.

LARRY MCGARVIN MOVED THAT YELLOWSTONE BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH BE APPROVED AS A COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER BY THE WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

SANDY BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WYOMING ADVISORY PANEL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Davey Hough, chairman, presented information on the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities. It is comprised of various educational stakeholders to include educators, administrators, parents and students with disabilities. This is an advisory board that meets 4 times per year around the state. They make recommendations on special education issues and issues relating to the needs of students with disabilities to the WDE.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SUCCESS CURRICULUM

Jeff Marsh presented a resolution that the State Board would like to draft in support of the success curriculum requirement for the Hathaway Scholarship. The resolution will read as follows and will be presented to the legislature:

RESOLUTION

FROM THE WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming State Board of Education endorses the creation and implementation of a rigorous core curriculum referred to as the “Success Curriculum” in Wyoming Statutes as it applies to the Hathaway Scholarship Program.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming State Board of Education encourages both bodies of the Wyoming State Legislature to continue to promote more consistent and rigorous standards which support the Hathaway Scholarship and student success at Wyoming’s university or community college degree or technical training programs.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Wyoming State Board of Education that a “Success Curriculum” recognizes the importance that each individual stretch to achieve, regardless of his or her beginning point. The 8th grade unit of study requires parental involvement and support. We believe the counseling during this unit of study is extremely important and should continue well beyond the 8th grade, to high school, and into any college or technical training environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wyoming State Board of Education acknowledges research-based evidence exists that a rigorous core curriculum is important for succeeding in post-secondary education, training and life.

DATED this 30th day of January, 2007

DANA MANN-TAVEGIA MOVED THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION AND PRESENT IT TO THE LEADERS OF THE JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

JEFF MARSH SECONDED THE MOTION

Sandy Barton wanted to make sure the military is included in this resolution. She also wanted to make sure that the resolution was thoroughly discussed prior to sending it to the legislature.

MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 YES VOTES AND 1 NO VOTE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Calvert called for the election of officers for the upcoming year.

DUANE EDMONDS MOVED THAT THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR BE: MICHELE SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN; JIM LOWHAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND LARRY MCGARVIN, TREASURER.

BILL ANTHONY SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairman Calvert gave a brief farewell speech highlighting the changes that had occurred since she had come on the Board. She hopes there will be more progress on high school reinvention and better preparing our students in the 21st century in the global market.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRMAN CALVERT ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:50 P.M.