

**MINUTES**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Casper College Student Center**  
**November 14, 2007**  
**Casper, WY**

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

State Board Members Absent: Jan Torres

Also present: Mary Kay Hill, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE); Jennifer Duncan, WDE; Joe Simpson, WDE; Tom Collins, WDE; Kay Post, WDE; Chuck Mitchell, WDE

Members of the Press and Public Present: Greg Cox, Superintendent Fremont County #21; Roger Larsen, Campbell County #1; Gene Meier, Associate Superintendent, Fremont County #21

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Michelle Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Jennifer Duncan conducted roll call, and it was established that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 12, 2007 business meeting were presented for approval.

SANDY BARTON MOVED THAT THE MINUTES BE APPROVED  
MATT GARLAND SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Larry McGarvin presented the treasurer's report that ended on September 30, 2007 presented a balance remaining of \$193,273.80.

LARRY MCGARVIN MOVED THAT THE REPORT BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED  
JIM MCBRIDE SECONDED THE MOTION

Jeff Marsh questioned why the reimbursements for travel have not been paid within the same month the costs are incurred. Jennifer Duncan responded that WOLFS pays out at varying times of the month. Additionally, reimbursement cannot be submitted until a signed voucher is returned and not all of those have been received yet.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Dana Mann-Tavegia reported on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting from October, 2007. The conference had some varied and interesting break out sessions.

She also requested participation in the NASBE study groups. Jim Lowham will serve on the Career Technical Education study group and Dana will participate in the Government Affairs study group.

Michelle Sullivan updated the Board on the Joint Education Committee (JEC) meeting that reviewed the management audit report conducted by the Legislative Service Office (LSO). She felt that it helped the JEC understand the different roles played by the State Board of Education (SBE) and the WDE. She felt that the SBE role as a policy making board was recognized as being one that can influence policy for the entire state.

Jim McBride indicated that the SBE and the WDE had the "ear" of the JEC. Jim feels this is a very positive thing and that the SBE will be able to have influence by supporting legislation that can change education and history in the state. Areas of responsibility for the SBE and the WDE have been identified and that has created a cooperative atmosphere as each role is more clearly understood. The result of this has been a more effective way of dealing with particular issues i.e. Private School Licensing is now handled within the WDE rather than by the SBE as the duties of the WDE are more suited to monitoring and approving or denying the applications as they are submitted

#### **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Jim McBride updated the Board on things that are being done within the WDE. The State Education Summary was sent out the second week of September statewide. It did produce some good discussions around the state and additional items will be reported next year to include 11<sup>th</sup> grade writing, ACT scores, and a grade for the WDE. He would like to continue sending this out the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September while he is in office and hopes that it will become a state standard no matter who is in office.

Distance Education legislation is an important upcoming piece. Career Technical Education may be expanded based on the MPR report; he also is hoping to continue funding the Instructional Facilitator program as well as taking care of the state's At-Risk students. There will be several small bills around the Hathaway Scholarship.

Jim Lowham would like to see a study of 1,000 random students to follow if they keep their eligibility for the Hathaway Scholarship or lose it. This would help high school counselors and college advisors guide students in a way that could improve their GPA and not lose eligibility.

Several private post secondary schools have had their licenses removed due to the Private School Licensing legislation that has been passed. There are a number of schools that have followed the guidelines and are currently registered or licensed in the state.

Jim went on to address the rebate recapture issue within districts. He simply wants to make sure that whatever happens within the districts is being done for the good of our children.

Jim reported on the status of districts participating in the WeTip program. There are still some districts that have chosen not to participate. WDE has asked the districts to review their Emergency Crisis and Action Plan to make sure they understand how to handle situations within the schools to assure the safety of the students i.e. hazardous material removal.

## **SCHEDULE FOR STANDARDS EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

Tom Collins presented a timeline for the upcoming review of the content and performance standards. The Board decided they would like to draft a preamble that will be included in the standards that will state the Board's position on the standards and what they should include in them. No action was taken, however, the Board decided that a member of the Board should be present at all of the upcoming standards review meetings.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mary Kay Hill updated the Board on what the legislature and interim committees will be doing prior to and during this session. The Joint Education Committee (JEC) will meet on December 5-6, 2007 and again on January 28-29, 2008.

She reviewed the Instructional Facilitator legislation that is requesting full funding for the program. The WDE would like for the program to continue to be funded at 2/3 due to the schools not using the program correctly and not being clear of the

expectations. Instructional facilitators are a certified teacher, who provides instructional support to teachers in their building by providing professional development, on-site coaching, evaluation of teaching practices and mentorship. There is currently a shortage of instructional facilitators in the state.

The WDE will also present a report on At-Risk Programs. The programs being offered need to be evaluated based on the ever changing definition of an at-risk student. There will also be a report on how to address alternative schools. 17 alternative schools exist in the state and provide high school education for students that might otherwise drop out. WDE will be going to the JEC to make a recommendation to allow the WDE to keep working on it and to gather some common understanding of continuing services. There will be reports on Distance Education. The JEC has heard a preliminary report on this. There will also be a report on Career Technical Education grant programs grant program as well as the roll out of the recommendations presented in the MPR report. The main item being presented on the Hathaway Scholarship will be to recommend establishing some criteria for students to regain usage of the scholarship once they have lost eligibility. The Department of Audit will be going into districts and researching their history of spending and will make recommendations on paybacks.

Part of the budget request for WDE involved an increase for funding for Assessment & Standards and increased cost of assessment as well as Coordinated School Health. The SBE budget request involves providing funding for an additional face to face meeting.

There has been an ongoing resource allocation study being done by Picus and Odden. They are going into the districts and finding out how the finance model funds are being used. They want to be sure that strategies are being used effectively, i.e. tutors that are not certified teachers do not have success with at-risk students so the hiring of paraprofessionals to be tutors would be an effective use of that strategy. They have just completed their first year of research.

Mary Kay Hill offered the opportunity for a member of the SBE to be present during the legislature. A parking place and work space at the WDE and lodging would be available for anybody who would like to come for a specific amount of time during the session, which runs February 11- March 6, 2008.

Joe Simpson notified the board that a monthly newsletter will be sent out to them to notify them of ongoing projects at the WDE as well as legislative issues during the upcoming session.

#### **DISTANCE EDUCATION TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Chuck Mitchell, WDE, presented the distance education task force report to the Board. Chuck introduced three members of the task force, Roger Larsen, representing home schoolers; Gene Meier, representing charter schools and

Pamala Anderson representing the SBE. This task force was created to develop recommendations on state oversight, assistance and guidance for the development, operation and funding of distance education programs by school districts as an extension to or a component of public school education programs. The recommendations will be reported to the JEC during the fall session and will then be presented to the legislature during the 2008 budget session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.