

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting
September 10, 2008
National Historic Trails Center
Casper, Wyoming

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

Board members absent: Jeff Marsh

Also present: Mary Kay Hill, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE); Joe Simpson, WDE; Jennifer Duncan, WDE; John Shumway, Attorney General's Office (AG); Peg Brown-Clark, WDE; Annemarie McCracken, Charter Schools contractor for SBE; Alan Moore, WDE; Brian Wright, WDE; Joy Mockelmann, WDE; Fred Hansen, WDE

Members of the Press and Public Present: Kathy Scheurman, Wyoming Education Association; Dawn Easley, Normative Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lowham called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SANDY BARTON MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2008 BE APPROVED AS CORRECTED

BILL ANTHONY SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jan Torres presented the treasurer's report with nothing noted.

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT ENDING JULY 31, 2008 BE APPROVED

PAM ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Jim McBride provided two documents for the board. A superintendent's memo regarding the education summary provided statewide as well as a copy of the education summary.

Jim said the main issues are absences from school as well as the high-risk behaviors that are observed and reported on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey i.e. smoking, drinking, illicit drug use. He noted that the YRBS reported that one-third of our children think they are overweight when in fact only one-fifth are, displaying a negative view of themselves in relationship to reality. This negative view of themselves can lead to other risk behaviors listed above as well as school absences and eventual drop out.

Community service as an alternative to suspension was another issue Jim thought would be a good option to have available to students. He provided an article to the board outlining the process.

He reviewed the education summary with the board and noted a few specific items. The education summary reflected that we are able to recruit teachers effectively due to the new structure of the finance model. He also notified the board that there is a new Request for Proposal out for bid for a new vendor for the assessment.

He updated the board on the child safety program that has been implemented on a small scale. This will be available state wide and the DNA is good for 10 years. This safety program is sponsored by the NFL Coaches and they are paying 50% of the program with the states providing the other half.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Kay reminded the board about the School Improvement Conference being held in Cheyenne in September at Little America. The location will allow for many more sessions than previously held.

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) is hosting their annual conference October 16-18, 2008 in Washington DC. Dana encouraged other board members to attend. Funding is built into the budget for 5 people to attend. She updated the board on the Government Affairs Committee and their suggestions for No Child Left Behind and how to present that to the potential presidential candidate.

SCHOOL RESTRUCTURING IN 2008-2009

Brian Wright and Joy Mockelmann updated the board on the two schools that are entering restructuring (Carbon County School District #1 - Cooperative High School, Laramie County School District #1 - Johnson Junior High) due to missing Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 4 years. They presented the restructuring plan, how the schools will be assisted and what expectations are placed on the schools. During the next year a local board member and administration level individual from each school will be present during the updates that will be presented to the board to report on their progress in meeting the restructuring criteria.

Joy Mockelmann presented the board with the specific steps that have been taken with each school and the technical assistance each has received during their restructuring in order for the schools to provide a School Improvement Plan. She also reviewed the services that each school must provide due to their status i.e. choice of school, supplemental services.

SPECIAL EDUCATION MONITORING ISSUES

Peg Brown-Clark presented some of the issues surrounding special education monitoring as these items affect accreditation of school districts, which the SBE has authority over. Special education services need to fall within the criteria set by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Some of the items that are monitored are graduation rates, schools meeting AYP, and students receiving the services they are entitled to. Districts who fail to meet the criteria set forth by the act are subject to sanctions i.e. withholding a portion of the federal funds that they receive annually or the possibility of accreditation status being lowered, etc.

CHARTER SCHOOL RULES

Annemarie McCracken has been hired by the state board as a contractor to conduct research and present data to help the WDE and the board with their upcoming task of updating the Chapter 30 Charter School Rules. By conducting interviews with several stakeholders in the charter school process she has been able to provide data to the board regarding the potential changes to the rules that need to take place according to this data and statutory changes made by the legislature. She presented the data she has received thus far and made some recommendations. She will present further information at the November meeting for assistance with updating the Charter 30 rules and regulations.

COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER APPROVAL

Fred Hansen presented for approval the Children's Home Society of South Dakota located 16 miles south of Rapid City, South Dakota and Provo Canyon School located in Provo, Utah as Court Ordered Placement providers. He would like them

approved as they provide services to a specific group of students with unique mental health and behavioral issues.

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF SOUTH DAKOTA BE APPROVED AS A COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING CONTINGENT UPON A SITE VISIT BY THE WDE.

LARRY MCGARVIN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

JAN TORRES MOVED THAT THE PROVO CANYON SCHOOL BE APPROVED AS A COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT PROVIDER FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING CONTINGENT UPON A SITE VISIT BY THE WDE.

BILL ANTHONY SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES AND ONE MEMBER ABSTAINING

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2008-2009

The board set their meeting schedule for the remainder of 2008 and into 2009. The following dates were proposed: November 19, 2008 for a one day meeting in Casper; February 3-4, 2009 to be held in Cheyenne during the legislative session; and April-May date to coincide with the Teacher of the Year Banquet; a one day meeting in Casper on June 18, 2009 and the September retreat to be held at a date and location determined by the chairman of the board.

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PAM ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2008-2009: IN CASPER ON NOVEMBER 19, 2008; IN CHEYENNE ON FEBRUARY 3-4, 2009; IN APRIL OR MAY, 2008 IN THE HOMETOWN OF THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR; A ONE DAY MEETING TO BE HELD IN CASPER ON JUNE 18, 2009 AND THE SEPTEMBER RETREAT TO BE HELD AT A LOCATION AND DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

DANA MANN-TAVEGIA SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Regular State Board meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Lowham at 5:00 p.m.

State Board of Vocational Education convened at 5:05 p.m.