

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 5, 2013

Lander, WY

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Ron Micheli, Joe Reichardt, Scotty Ratliff, Belenda Wilson, Hugh Hageman, Kathy Coon, Cindy Hill, Sue Belish, Kathryn Sessions, Ken Rathbun, Richard Crandall and Pete Gosar

Wyoming State Board of Education members absent: Walt Wilcox

Also present: Paige Fenton-Hughes, SBE; Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG); Mary Kay Hill, Governor's Office; Leighton Thomas, WDE; Stephanie Brady, WDE; Kathryn Reeves, WDE; Dr. Jim Verley, WDE; Michelle Hoffman, FCSD #14; Kathy Scheurman, WEA; Alejandra Silva, Lander Journal; Jennifer Young, CPOW; Bertha Tracy, CCSD#1; Lynette St. Clair, Reservation Committee; Liz David, Sublette County School District #1; Lona Tracy, Crook County School #1; Mary Ann Jones, community member; Gail MacNaughton, Cornerstone Christian School; Scott MacNaughton, Covenant Presbyterian Church; Jeff Hymas, Community Member; Jay Wells, Warm Valley Community Church; Jim Helmick, Wyoming Citizens Opposing Common Core; Kay Wells, Wyoming Citizens Opposing Common Core; Terri Bray, Parent; Erin Gering, Citizen; Kelly Simone, Parent; Judy Helmick, Wyoming Citizens Opposing Common Core; Linda Hudson, Lander Ministerial Association.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ron Micheli called the State Board of Vocational Education meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Kathy Hitt conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathy Coon; the motion carried.

UPDATE ON CTE AND DIVISION PLANNING

Richard Crandall discussed the upcoming vocational events in the State, the unintentional consequences of the Hathaway scholarship on vocational students, the five year plan due to the governor in December. He discussed the IBCC schools in Colorado and the potential for their presence in Wyoming.

Scotty Ratliff asked if Job Corps in Riverton is connected to vocational education at the state level in any way. Richard Crandall indicated they were not.

Scotty Ratliff also indicated that many involved in vocational education are not at the top of Hathaway monetary awards. Those at the bottom of the pool will not get the same amount of money as those at the top who will get more than one type of scholarship. Even if you do well in college, you can never move up in the Hathaway dollars.

Ron Micheli said his understanding is that Hathaway was created to pay for middle level kids to go to school. Upper level kids have adequate scholarship opportunities. That philosophy has been lost. All kids should be successful and the Hathaway should be focused on mid-level kids. He questioned if the legislature intentionally has done this or is it unconscious decisions that have made it so?

Kathryn Sessions wants it possible for a student who attends a community college and does well to be able to move up in the funding. She indicated that flexibility is needed, but the legislature did not want that option.

Ken Rathbun moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Belenda Wilson; the motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ron Micheli called the meeting to order at 8:30.

Kathy Hitt conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sue Belish moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Pete Gosar; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 7-8, 2013 State Board of Education meeting were presented for approval. Kathryn Sessions moved to approve the minutes, Belenda Wilson seconded; the motion carried.

SBE COORDINATOR UPDATE

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, indicated the October 15, 2013 report was presented to the Select Committee on Statewide Educational Accountability. Michael Beck, consultant for the SBE, indicated during that report there have been technical adjustments for the accountability system. She provided an update on the work of the PJP and the district assessment meeting.

Beck presented to the Select Committee matrices about how many schools have exceeded, met, partially met, or not met expectations. An issue that has not been resolved is the amount of autonomy the PJP has in setting indices and informing performance level descriptors, not just in setting cut scores on the four indicators. Scott Marion has expressed concern that if PJP has full reign it can change the results of the model in a way that is not intended. Michael Beck believes the PJP should decide certain elements of the model.

Paige indicated that the Board should make a recommendation to the Select Committee about the purview of the PJP.

Sue Belish said she believes the group has a vision, but the Board should make a recommendation. The 2012 report has performance level descriptors and it is a growth model. This was from the consultant and the legislature accepted that. PJP offered changes to the descriptors so there is tension because achievement is more important to the PJP. Why does the Professional Judgment Panel exist? Our recommendation should be that 30 some members make recommendations to this Board.

Scotty Ratliff said the Board should respect the process. The legislature creates the panel and we move along and someone in the process, for example the consultant, ignores parts they don't like. The Board remains quiet and we need to take a stand.

Paige Fenton-Hughes encouraged the Board to make a recommendation about what way to go and the rationale since there is tension between the fixed part of accountability, what the PJP has to work on, and the composition of the group. If some members that are required (as per statute) are not in attendance, then schools could appeal not making the standards. Some schools have only two indicators so those schools need to be reviewed to determine how they would get a rating. An appeal process also needs to be established.

Paige Fenton-Hughes indicated that Michael Beck thinks 30 is plenty on the PJP, but suggested that Kathy Coon's committee could make a recommendation. Kathryn Sessions asked how all groups would be represented. Cindy Hill expressed concern about shrinking the group because parents and teachers might not be represented. Belenda Wilson asked to see the statute and indicated that the PJP has a mission and a model and it is not appropriate for them to step outside the model. Mackenzie Williams pointed out that there is no any provision in the act for proxies for PJP. Ron Micheli indicated that the entire group votes independently and the majority vote rules. Mackenzie Williams pointed out that it is the Board's decision to make decisions based on recommendations from the PJP.

Paige Fenton-Hughes informed the Board that they ultimately decide an appeal. Ron Micheli directed Paige to draft these items and send them to him for review.

A motion was made by Sue Belish: The PJP is to continue to make a determination about cut scores on indicators, as well as make a recommendation about index points and weighting any sub-indicators. The motion was seconded by Joe Reichardt; discussion followed. Paige Fenton Hughes said that when the State assessment is done, the cut scores will need to change. Once we have a base line, the scores would be set for a period of time. Kathy Coon indicated that PJP will be a rolling process until it is stabilized. The motion carried.

Paige Fenton-Hughes reviewed the Joint Education Committee meeting which started with a review of the CREG report. The various reports are available on the LSO website. The committee discussed early childhood education, draft legislation for School Resource Offices, individuals carrying firearms in school. A presentation by a Colorado school safety expert discussed prevention, how they hear about potential incidents, and networks in the communities. An assessment systems update revolved around the BOE (Body of Evidence) process: the BOE would be replaced by a system based on course completion determining proficiency. District would not have to collect separate data on the high school proficiencies, but would document curriculum and assessment plans with an audit every five years.

Paige stated that the Board may want to weigh in before the legislative session about statute change and minimum course requirements.

Sue Belish asked that Paige investigate the possibility of Board getting information that will help them understanding the impact of districts about the required work at high school level. Paige will continue to work on what it looks like to be a graduate in Wyoming and will incorporate that into this work.

SYSTEM OF SUPPORT--WDE

Richard Crandall presented a power point to document the history of struggling schools. The challenge is to provide a System of Support. WDE has coaches who can coordinate regionally with various providers in support of schools or districts who are struggling. Eight groups, for example, could provide support: AdvancEd, Gear Up, Wyoming State Development Grant, Silverback Learning Solutions, Metropolitan State University, McRel, School Improvement Network and Wyoming Department of Education. District leaders could inform the coach and others about what they have already tried in an effort to establish a common goal for improvement. The first meeting with a school will occur in December. Scotty Ratliff pointed out that education is not the only issue, but that economics plays a role in student success. Richard will be reporting progress back to the Board of Education at their January meeting.

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ron Micheli will provide recommendations at the next meeting.

WYOMING STATE STANDARDS

Laurie Hernandez and other WDE presenters provided information on the status of the review of proposed standards for Career and Vocational Education, Social Studies, Physical Education and Science. Each committee has reviewed and evaluated current standards. Laurie went on to describe the committee structure, the timeline for adoption, and the process they used to develop the current standards. She also provided the percent of teachers surveyed who approved of the new standards in each area. The groups did look at national standards in content areas, including ITSE standards, but also considered Wyoming-based interests for standard development. Belenda Wilson pointed out that all the standards are on the WDE home page with a link to a survey.

In response to a concern about the approval process of the standards, Chairman Micheli explained the Wyoming Administrative Procedures Act requirements. Some audience members expressed concern about the Science standards and the potential atheistic, sectarianism, and one world view of science in the standards. Others wondered why the Social Studies did not address Native American governments and government to government relations. Erin Gering, a parent, asked the Board to send the process back to be redone. Cindy Hill commented on the low percentages of teachers (58%) who supported the Science standards while 36% said these standards are an improvement.

A brief discussion about how participants for the committees are chosen and the Board was informed that requests went to each district and then regional representatives were chosen. The standards are

posted on the WDE website for public review. Ron Micheli stopped the public discussion and thanked the public for their decorum as they presented. Cindy Hill asked that agendas, microphones, and phones be available at future meetings.

Hugh Hageman moved that the process be put on hold until the standards can be looked at more closely. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ken Rathbun moved that the Board request the following actions by the Wyoming Department of Education in the content areas of Science, Social Studies, Physical Education and CVE: A. Provide crosswalk comparisons of the current standards to the proposed revisions. B. Provide an analysis of the impact of the proposed revisions to teacher profession development and student assessments. C. Provide a plan to address the impact revisions will have on teachers and on student assessment. D. Provide a communication plan to assure parents, the public, and educators have full access to the standards. Sue Belish seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried with Pete Gosar voting "no". All in favor were asked to show hands and those opposed to also to show hands.

CHAPTER 10 RULES

No discussion

NEXT MEETING

January 23 and 24 in Cheyenne

PUBLIC COMMENT

Audience members requested posting of information and expressed concerns about the committee representation. Ron Micheli stated the items are sent out to the press and other sites, but are sometimes not publicized locally. Ron also clarified that we are a republic, not a democracy and we only have people who represent us. If we are not satisfied we can recall those who do not do what we wish. He provided an example of a public meeting (one of 7 around the state) on Common Core where only three people in favor showed up. Ron asked for any suggestions that would help with communicating the information and the process.

Kathy Coon pointed out that it is the Department of Education's job to put the committees together.

Cindy Hill requested that she receive emails.

Sue Belish suggested that educators are also parents and all the participants in the standards process are citizens of Wyoming. She asked that no one pit parents against educators.

Pete Gosar requested that in the future one of the meeting days for the Board be a Saturday so educators can attend without taking a day from their classroom. It was discussed that the upcoming meeting could be held on Thursday night to accommodate some educators.

The State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.