



WYOMING

State Board of Education

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For Immediate Release:

October 10, 2013

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Standards and Assessment are the focus of State Board of Education in Cheyenne

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming State Board of Education convened for two days of meetings in Cheyenne Monday and Tuesday, addressing a full agenda of items.

Headlining the confab was the Board's Tuesday decision to push back a judgment on revised state standards in Career and Vocational Education; Science; Social Studies and Physical Education. State Board of Education Chairman Ron Micheli said the decision was made to push back a month due to a lack of time for review of the standards by the Board.

The State Board of Education also approved a memo to the Select Committee on Educational Accountability asking for permission to construct an educational stakeholder group, which would offer a recommendation on a state assessment. The workgroup would be modeled after a group, which was charged with a similar task in Oregon. Currently, Wyoming's contract with its current test vendor is set to expire after the 2013-14 school year and the state is exploring options for future state assessments.

Prior to adoption of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium's summative assessment as its state test, the Oregon Department of Education set up a workgroup of 18 education stakeholders to review all of the assessment options and make a recommendation to the State Board of Education. According to the Oregon Department of Education, this workgroup, which included teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, members of the State Board, a legislator, a parent, and a representative from Stand For Children, reviewed information on the available assessment options. Those assessment options included assessments offered by PARCC, NWEA, ACT, College Board, and Renaissance Learning in addition to Smarter Balanced. To ensure an impartial review process, the majority of the panel members came from randomly selected districts from around the state.

"It's just an effort to get all the groups together and make sure that we are going to provide an assessment that meets the public's expectations," said Micheli.

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The Board of Education took time Tuesday to hear presentations against and in favor of the Wyoming Content Standards in Math and English Language Arts. After the presentations, Board Chair Ron Micheli voiced the board's continued support for the standards. The focus Tuesday afternoon was on the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act. Dr. Michael Flicek's offered a presentation on the accountability model, as well as overviews of the State System of Support, and the work of the Professional Judgment Panel.

Monday, the Board listened to updates from Wyoming Department of Education Director, Richard Crandall, as well as supervisory and legislative Committees.