

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 23, 24, & 25, 2015
Lakeside Lodge
99 Forest Service Road
Pinedale, Wyoming

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Pete Gosar, Ken Rathbun, Ron Micheli, Jim Rose, Dicky Shanor, proxy for Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Nate Breen, Scotty Ratliff, Kathryn Sessions, Walt Wilcox, and Belenda Willson

Members absent: Kathy Coon and Hugh Hageman

Also present: Chelsie Oaks, WDE; Brent Young, WDE; Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator; Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG); Albert Sommer, Representative House District 20, Jay Harnack, Superintendent of Sublette CSD #1, Jennifer Hayword, Sublette CSD #1 Trustee; Steve Miller, Sublette CSD #1; Greg Legerski, Sublette CSD #1; Jeryl Fluckiger, Sublette CSD #1; Kathy Scheurman, WEA.

September 23, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Gosar called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

Chelsie Oaks conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Scotty Ratliff moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Sue Belish; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the August 6, 2015 State Board of Education meeting were presented for approval.

Ron Micheli moved to approve the August 6, 2015 minutes, seconded by Scotty Ratliff; the motion carried.

Minutes from the August 13, 2015 State Board of Education meeting were presented for approval.

Nate Breen moved to approve the August 13, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Sue Belish; the motion carried.

BUDGET REQUEST

Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator, reviewed the memo and the materials provided in the packet. She specifically talked about the upcoming budgets and the need for moving the funds from the 900 to the 001 budget, the Board will not request any more funds for this biennium, and that the Board will have some money for a communications plan in the next budget year but not enough for the whole plan presented in the meeting packet.

The Board discussed taking more ownership of its budget.

Nate Breen suggested the Board create a three year strategic plan and have the budget fit into that, instead of the other way around.

The Board further discussed the possible need for its retreats to be held in April or May, after the Legislature assigns duties and priorities to better prepare for the work.

Sue Belish moved to approve the budget submission, seconded by Belenda Willson; the motion carried.

OCTOBER 15TH REPORT

Paige Fenton Hughes, reviewed the requirements of October 15th report that is due to the Legislative Service Office on October 15, 2015. The Board will have a teleconference.

Assessment Task Force Report:

Dr. Scott Marion, Center for Assessment, presented the Assessment Task Force report to the Board that highlighted the process of the task force, goals for an assessment system, the reality of assessment and some key high level recommendations from the task force.

Sue Belish requested that a theory of action and an impact and effect of the recommendations be included in the report. Additionally, Sue wanted to know if the task force will continue.

Scott Marion did not think the task force will continue, but the work is in the WDE's hands now. Dr. Marion asked the Board for feedback on the report. The Board discussed briefly the recommendations associated with having the last required state standards-based summative assessment at the end of 10th grade.

The Board liked the rest of the suggestions in the report.

Professional Judgment Panel:

Dr. Mike Flicek presented to the Board on the report from the Professional Judgment Panel provided in the meeting packet. He also addressed that there may not be a need for the Professional Judgment Panel in the future, for the exception of alternative schools. Because with school accountability is in a place where we do not have to do cut scores every year. Lastly, Dr. Flicek showed the Board the school level accountability report.

District Assessment System (DAS) Update:

Brent Young, WDE Liaison, handed out the new District Assessment System guidebook. The Chapter 31 Rules, public comment ends October 4th, the emergency rules were already approved by the Board to ensure there was no conflict between statute and rules districts were being asked to follow.

Paige Fenton Hughes, added that two other documents, not in the meeting packet, on the DAS will be included in the final October 15th report. They are a memo from Deb Lindsey to the districts and a cover memo from the assessment team at the WDE with more specific details on the process.

Content and Performance Standards:

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, reviewed the information provide in the meeting packet; the 2015 revised Wyoming content & performance standards report and the table showing the nine year plan for standards review. Paige noted that the report is actually not due to the Legislature until December 1st, but the Laurie Hernandez completed the report early so the Board to submit in its October 15th report.

Albert Sommers, Rep HD #20, requested that the Board also include an update on the status of the science standards in the October 15th Report.

Exemption Request:

Paige Fenton Hughes reported that there is no new information regarding the exemption request to the USDOE about testing every other year and that the Board has already received all the information in the meeting the packet; however, it is required to be included in the report.

System of Support (SoS):

Paige Fenton Hughes announced and introduced Dr. Joel Dvorak as being awarded the RFP on the System of Support: strategic planning phase.

Dr. Dvorak discussed his work for the last 13 days on the job and his vision of the strategic work moving forward. His focus is to build a systems that will last for decades and raise the achievement of all Wyoming students. He will create a collaborative council to define the vision and mission.

Members of the Board had questions for Dr. Dvorak on who will make up the council, how does he envision the role of the State Board of Education in his planning, how long this will take and if he is aware of the urgency in completing this phase, and the overall frustrations with the process so far.

Pete Gosar, chairman, requested that a complete plan be presented to the Board by the end of the year.

Dr. Jim Rose, felt that State System of Support is the most important work of the Board and suggested the Board read 'The Prize,' by Dale Russakoff, which details the debacle of the Mark Zuckerberg grant to the Newark school system. Dr. Rose felt the book would help the Board in determining what not to do with SoS.

Dicky Shanor, proxy for Superintendent Balow, does not want the Board to discredit what it has already started with Wyoming Association of School Administrators (WASA), the Wyoming Center of Educational Leadership (WyCEL) and the beginning work with Dr. Dvorak. Mr. Shanor feels that the Statewide System of Support should be presented to the Joint Education Interim Committee as a team, standing together.

Brent Young, shifted the conversation back to the meeting materials provided in the packet. He noted that work is being done internally around evaluations, that conversations with REL

Northwest and the North Central Comprehensive Center have started all around the SoS and building capacity within the agency to sustain it.

Ron Micheli, suggested that Brent take a look at what other states have done for their own System of Support, there might not be a need to reinvent the wheel.

The meeting recessed at 6:07 p.m.

September 24, 2015

The Board reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

CONTINUATION OF OCTOBER 15TH REPORT

Duties Prescribed by Law

Paige Fenton Hughes reviewed the cover memo and list of duties provided in the meeting packet.

Sue Belish suggested that the SBE Administrative Committee should go through the list and recommend whether a duty should be the Wyoming Department of Educations or the State Boards.

Albert Sommers, Rep HD # 20, said that if the Board does not speak up, the Legislature will not hear it. The Board discussed giving more input to the Legislature.

Chairman Pete Gosar requested that if any member had suggestions or revisions on the October 15th Report that they provide them to Chelsie Oaks, SBE executive assistant, by October 14, 2015.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sue Belish reported that she serves on the Advisory Committee to the Select Committee on Statewide Accountability and reviewed the meeting notes for the July 27th & August 28th meetings with the Board. She said that the committee is on phase II of accountability and that she will continue to participate on the committee and bring back information to the Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Sue Belish serves as the chairwoman of the SBE Administrative Committee, she reviewed the notes provided in the meeting packet from the committee teleconference on September 16. Sue requested that the Board provide a motion to approve the NASBE Grant submitted by Paige Fenton Hughes.

Belenda Willson moved to approve the NASBE Grant, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

Lastly, the Board discussed its continual request for a permanent position from the Legislature. It determined that now is not the right time to continue with that request this session, but that the Board does want it kept on the radar.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

The recommendations and estimates from Pascal Public Relations were brought to the Boards attention.

Kathryn Session commented that the Board needed to decide what direction it wanted to take, and she felt that there was a lot of repetition in the proposal.

Brent Young listed what the communications team at the WDE could accomplish; launching a Twitter account and developing a brand and logo. He said that these tasks could be completed in the fall of this year and in addition that the team could assist with copy editing, a newsletter, formatting and releasing press releases.

Belenda Willson said that she felt Pascal PR created a good plan and suggested that the Board pick and choose what it wants out of the plan, for example, communications training for the whole board.

Kari Eakins, Communications Director, WDE, discussed the process the department uses for press releases and how SBE's message would get acrossed.

Belenda Willson moved for the WDE, Communications Team to create the logo and color schemes for the Board, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

Kathryn Sessions moved to have Paige Fenton Hughes have a discussion with Pascal PR for designing the messaging of who the board is and what is its responsibilities and priorities, seconded by Dicky Shanor, proxy for Superintendent Balow; the motion carried.

WDE REPORTS

Brent Young gave a report on: Native American Education,he noted that Rob Black at the WDE had been assigned as the new tribal liaison; Accreditation, added that this is going to be a big year with 19 school districts to review; the Alternative School Technical Advisory Group, Chelsie will forward that report to Board members; the Distance Education Task Force An attachment is included in the packet that provides a summary by the Distance Education Task Force (DETF); and the Hathaway Scholarship Program, is working on improving several different aspects of the program. Several areas are becoming more automated and efficient. One area of note that is also going to be revamped is the branding and marketing of the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Scheurman commented that she was glad to be at the Board's retreat.

Albert Sommers, thanked the Board for hosting its retreat in Pinedale.

Ken Rathbun moved for the meeting to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Session; the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

The Board held a book study on *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* by Robert Putnam. No action was taken.

September 25, 2015

The Board discussed goal setting, the definition of a high school graduate, collaborative work and pursuing a council and topics for a legislative agenda. No action was taken.

The Board concluded its retreat at 11:08 a.m.