

## Virtual Education Advisory Committee (VEAC)

### Meeting Information

**Date:** 8/14/19

**Location:** WDE Zoom Meeting

**Committee Members:** **Angelique Littlejohn, Jamie Christensen**, Katie Swistowicz, Laurie Davis, Nish Goicolea (**Brendan O'Connor**), Representative Freeman, Richard Parker, Senator Kost, **Shannon Siebert**, Steve Hopkins, **Tanya Sisneros**, Zeta Anderson,

**WDE:** Shelley Hamel, John Bole, Kim Morrow, Laurel Ballard, **Robin Grandpre, Lori Thilmany, Leslie Zimmerschied**

**Guests:** **Bob Jensen**, Jody Rakness, Tim Hancock, **Molly Mulcahy**, Whitney Romrell, William Johnston, Jarrod Hogue, Ben Smith, **Joe Heywood**

*(Names in **bold** indicate meeting attendees)*

### Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Updates from 6/12/19 VEAC Meeting
  - House Enrolled Act 0118 Amendment
  - Homebound Students Taking Remote Education Classes
  - VEAC Membership [Nominations](#)
  - Chapter 41 Rules Revisions Draft
- Virtual Education Updates
  - Distance Education Grant Award Announcements
  - Virtual Education Program Applications and Renewals
  - Virtual Education Teacher Professional Development
  - [Wyoming Innovations in Learning Conference 2019](#)
  - Remote Education Information Dissemination

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## Notes

### Updates from 6/12/19 VEAC Meeting

- House Enrolled Act 0118 Amendment
  - This amendment will allow for school to school delivery of remote education within a district. The statute currently only allows for remote education to be delivered from one district to another district.
  - Senator Kost has asked the Legislative Service Office to draft the amendment we reviewed in that last meeting. He has also reached out to a Joint Education Interim Committee (JEIC) member to ask for committee sponsorship of the draft legislation.
- Homebound Students Taking Remote Education Classes
  - Since any student taking remote education has to do so in a brick and mortar setting, the question was raised during our last meeting whether or not students who meet homebound statute requirements could utilize these type classes.
    - The WDE Attorney General responded to this question and said districts could enter into a remote education agreement in order to deliver instruction to students who meet the eligibility requirements of W.S. 21-4-402 due to being hospitalized or homebound.
    - However, if the homebound period length is extensive, the district would need to consider an approved virtual education program instead.
    - Additionally, circumstances related to hospitalization could potentially qualify the student for special education or other services and therefore a student would no longer fall under the hospitalized or homebound pupil provisions.
- VEAC Membership [Nominations](#)
  - A survey was sent to VEAC members but no responses were provided from current committee members.
  - In terms of virtual education programming that will be provided during the 2019-20 school year, there are twelve districts providing within-district programs and three districts providing statewide programs. We want representation from

- both statewide and within district programs as well as full-time and part-time programs.
- The following recommendations will be forwarded to Superintendent Balow:
  - VE Program Principal - Joe Heywood, Wyoming Virtual Academy in Niobrara 1
  - Superintendent - Pete Kilbride, Cowboy State Virtual Academy in Sheridan 1
- Recommendations for the following role is still needed:
  - Brick and Mortar Principal from school that has a VE program
  - Shannon Siebert mentioned maybe a principal from Natrona 1 could be selected. Tanya Sisneros from Natrona 1 said she will check with one of the assistant principals to see if they are interested. If not, Lori will check with the other districts that have within district programs and ask for recommendations.
  - We did have a higher/distance education role vacated but since Representative Freeman has that experience, we don't necessarily need to replace that role at this time.
- Chapter 41 Rules Revisions Draft
  - Revisions to the rules are required to incorporate the changes from House Enrolled Act 0005 which allows for postsecondary faculty members to teach virtual education classes when a Wyoming certified teacher isn't available and agreements between districts for full-time virtual education enrollment.
    - The majority of revisions have been made and were reviewed at the last meeting but smaller edits continue to surface including language that can be removed.
    - A strike and underline draft of the revisions will be shared with VEAC members by the end of this month.

#### Virtual Education Updates

- Distance Education Grant Award Announcements
  - Six applications were received from the eligible districts.
  - The award announcements are ready to be sent as of the approval coming from WDE leadership an hour ago.

- All of the available funds for this grant cycle will be awarded which is \$232,000.
- Virtual Education Program Applications and Renewals
  - Two new districts applied for programs this year, Sublette 1 and Sweetwater 2.
  - And thirteen districts renewed their applications.
  - Program approval letters will be sent to the superintendents of the fifteen districts at the beginning of next week.
- Virtual Education Teacher Professional Development
  - July 31, 2019, was the end of the professional development calendar year for the 2018-19 school year virtual education teachers to obtain at least seven hours of Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) approved credit.
  - The WDE will prepare the names of the virtual education teachers reported on the WDE684 WISE Teacher/Course/Student Data Collection and the WDE728 Virtual Education Teacher Collection and forward it to PTSB to compare with the teachers who participated in virtual education workshops from 8/1/18 to 7/31/19.
  - The professional development verification will meet the requirements of W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxi)(B) and Chapter 41 Virtual Education Rules Section 7(b).
- [Wyoming Innovations in Learning Conference 2019](#)
  - The Innovations conference scheduled for Nov. 6-8 in Gillette will offer approved PTSB virtual education credit since the conference includes online and blended learning tracks.
  - In addition to the main conference, there are several pre-conference sessions available as well.
- Remote Education Information Dissemination
  - We are in the process of preparing a graphic to go with the remote education information flyer reviewed at the last meeting. The memo release date is currently scheduled for Sept. 9.
  - The information sheet includes a definition of remote education and explains K-12 concurrent enrollment reporting and funding. The graphic will break down the K-12 concurrent enrollment reporting because understanding that process is the biggest confusion districts currently have.