



**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
March 30, 2017**

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President  
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler  
Vice President  
Council Bluffs

Brooke Axiotis  
Des Moines

Michael Bearden  
Gladbrook

Bettie Bolar  
Marshalltown

Diane Crookham-Johnson  
Oskaloosa

Angela English  
Dyersville

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

Mary Ellen Miller  
Mason City and  
Wayne County

Robert Nishimwe  
Student Member  
Des Moines

Ryan M. Wise  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, March 30, 2017, in the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. State Board members present were Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Angela English, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Robert Nishimwe. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ryan Wise, Shan Seivert, Staci Hupp, David Tilly, Larry Bice, Linda Carroll, Holly Barnes, Nicole Proesch, Matt Coulter, Jeremy Varner, Amy Williamson, Marietta Rives, Jay Pennington, Eric St Clair, Barbara Burrows, Alex Harris, Tom Cooley, Isbelia Arzola, Thomas Mayes, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds and Linda Fandel, Governor's Office; Richard Lee, WHO Radio; Jon Lemons, Des Moines Public Schools; Eric Knifong, Local 5 News; Sandy Schmitz, Iowa Reading Research Center; Colleen Heinz, Iowa State Education Association; Shelly Vroegh, 2017 Iowa Teacher of the Year; Meghan Gavin and Jason Landhow, Iowa Attorney General's Office; Shawn Haake, Iowa Central Community College; M. J. Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Laura Heitritter and Chris Nonhof, Northwestern College; Frank Hilton, Peyton Rodriguez; Mackenzie Ryan, Des Moines Register; Petra Lange, Drake University, Victoria Yin, Des Moines Roosevelt High School, and Charles Mercer, Des Moines North High School.

**STATE BOARD WORK SESSION – ACHIEVEMENT GAP WITHIN  
ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM SCORES BY C.O.R.E.**

Charlie Edwards provided an introduction to the Achievement Gap Within Advanced Placement Exam Scores by C.O.R.E. (Community of Racial Equity) work session.

Robert Nishimwe introduced Petra Lange, C.O.R.E. sponsor and professor at Drake University, Victoria Yin, student at Des Moines Roosevelt High School, and Charles Mercer, C.O.R.E. sponsor and community outreach coordinator at Des Moines North High School.

C.O.R.E. representatives shared information about the program. Items discussed were the role the State Board of Education (State Board) can play in bringing about change, the history and mission of C.O.R.E., advanced placement exam score trends, microaggressions faced in the classroom by students of color, and the journey of success through challenges faced. A PowerPoint was presented that addressed these issues.

There was discussion regarding data on students of color entering and graduating from Central Academy, the State Board's role in closing the achievement gap and the need to focus on outcomes, general and AP academic performance data, curriculum, the need for students to be exposed to different cultures, Central Academy's recruitment process, and Central Academy's awareness of the issues and what is being done to help with equity of outcomes as well as equity of access.

## **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

It was moved by Diane Crookham-Johnson and seconded by Angela English that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Director's Report**

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), shared examples of how he is seeing the State Board's priorities come to life in his visits to school districts. When visiting the Bellevue Community School District, he observed the priority of *Increasing Accessibility of Career and Technical Education* in action. He visited a classroom that combined industrial technology and math where students use a plasma cutter to create items that they sell in their community. Angela English accompanied Wise to Bellevue and shared positive comments about the visit.

Also under the *Increasing Accessibility of Career and Technical Education* priority, the Waterloo Community School District has started a career center where they are creating pathways for different career areas. They currently offer nursing and graphic design career areas. Wise had an opportunity to talk to students who shared their plans for advancing their education and experience in these areas.

Wise visited an elementary school in the Cedar Falls Community School District. This school is demonstrating the State Board's priority of *Implementing Iowa Academic Standards* by incorporating Multi-Tiered System of Supports to ensure all students' needs are being met.

Under the priority of *Creating a Safe and Rich Learning Environment*, the Algona High School has created a program called the “Link Crew” where juniors and seniors lead orientation for freshmen students.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Discussion with Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds**

Charlie Edwards welcomed Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds and provided comments.

Reynolds thanked State Board members for their commitment to providing Iowa students with the best education possible. She also thanked Ryan Wise for his leadership and outreach across the state.

Reynolds talked about the Branstad-Reynolds administration’s priority of giving students a globally competitive education that prepares them to be good citizens and pursue rewarding careers in Iowa. Other priorities include a focus on academic standards with an aligned assessment and making the most of Iowa’s Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) program to improve instruction and raise achievement.

Reynolds reported on the Future Ready Iowa initiative, which she co-chairs. The goal of the Future Ready Iowa initiative is to have 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce to have either education or training beyond high school by the year 2025.

The Future Ready Iowa initiative will make recommendations to the Governor’s Office in October 2017 on how the 70 percent goal will be met. Reynolds asked for the State Board’s support in reaching this goal, which will have an impact on the quality of life for families and communities across the state.

Reynolds discussed preliminary ideas that are emerging from the Future Ready Iowa initiative, which include:

- Additional opportunities to expand work-based learning.
- More quality pre-apprenticeship programs for helping students seek further education beyond high school.
- Last dollar scholarships for helping new high school graduates as well as adults earn a degree and/or credentials that will lead to high demand jobs.

Reynolds also asked the State Board for their support with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the career and technical education (CTE) initiative.

Reynolds shared highlights of STEM. She addressed Scale-Up Programs, which includes Engineering as Elementary, ST Math, Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE), and two Project Lead the Way programs - Computer Science and Biomedical Science.

The STEM BEST (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) program is also expanding. This is an opportunity for business professionals to collaborate with educators to help design industry-driven curriculum that's infused with work-based learning. Since its inception in 2014, there have been 18 STEM BEST projects awarded across Iowa. These projects involve large and small school districts, nonpublic schools, and over 150 employees. Reynolds shared highlights of the Bettendorf and Pleasant Valley Community School Districts' partnership.

On March 20, a press conference was held where four STEM BEST projects were awarded funds that were available from the United States Department of Energy to support a pilot program. The grant totaled \$200,000. Boone High School was one project that received additional funds to offer a semester-long project-based opportunity that would include plumbing and electrical fields.

Reynolds asked State Board members to encourage parents, educators, community leaders, and others across the state to consider bringing STEM Scale-Up and STEM BEST programs into their school districts.

Reynolds reported that the STEM Advisory Council's work also intersects with the new CTE law, which creates more equitable CTE opportunities across the state. The council is interested in hearing about the role of the State Board and ways to help strengthen the regional partnerships that are developing with CTE programs.

Reynolds commented on the Governor's computer science bill. This bill encourages elementary schools to offer introduction to computer science courses, middle schools to offer exploratory computer science courses, and high schools to offer one high-quality computer science course by July 1, 2019. The bill includes a \$500,000 appropriation for professional development beginning in fiscal year 2019. The bill also recommends an advisory group that will look at how computer science can count toward math or science credit for graduation.

Reynolds thanked board members for their leadership and work on the state assessments. As the Legislature moves in the direction of reopening the request for proposal (RFP) for the state assessment, the Branstad-Reynolds Administration has made it clear they want all assessments and proposals to get fair consideration.

Mary Ellen Miller talked about the State Board's priority of *Transitioning to New Assessments*. She addressed the need for an aligned assessment, the cost, funds currently being spent on an unaligned test, declaration of a moratorium, and pressure put on students and teachers.

There was discussion regarding frustration with funds being spent on an unaligned assessment and whether there can be accountability with an unaligned assessment.

Mike Knedler discussed the State Board's priority of *Increasing Accessibility of Career and Technical Education*. Knedler reviewed the three basic elements of CTE redesign: 1) encourages students to look more closely at opportunities in CTE areas that are in high demand in Iowa, 2) establishes a systematic approach to career counseling, and 3) establishes regional planning partnerships.

There was discussion regarding what the board can do to highlight the successes of the regional planning partnerships.

Brooke Axiotis shared information on the State Board's priority of *Reducing Achievement Gaps*. She addressed a grant the board received from the Foundation for Child Development through the National Association of State Boards of Education.

Diane Crookham-Johnson also talked about the State Board's priority of *Reducing Achievement Gaps*. Specifically, what the State Board's priority should be for PK-12 public education was discussed.

Robert Nishimwe shared information about C.O.R.E. and talked about issues that students of color experience getting into certain programs (e.g., CTE, Central Academy).

Mike May provided comments and referenced a book titled *Thank you for Being Late* by Thomas L. Friedman.

### **Director's Report (continued)**

Ryan Wise announced that by the end of this school year he will have visited 100 school districts.

Wise reported that Governor Branstad reappointed Robert Nishimwe to another term on the State Board.

Wise introduced and shared background information on Matt Coulter who has been appointed as the administrator and chief financial officer in the Division of School Finance and Support Services.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mike May made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Charlie Edwards talked about the discussion with the Lt. Governor and alignment between the Governor's Office and the State Board.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA (continued)**

### **Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies**

Matt Coulter, Administrator, Division of School Finance and Support Services, and Tom Cooley, Chief, Bureau of Finance, Facilities, Operation and Transportation Services, presented the area education agency (AEA) budgets for approval.

Iowa Code section 273.3(12) requires that the State Board review the proposed budget of each AEA and either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments by May 1. All budgets were received on time, reviewed by Department staff, and no issues were found. Cooley said that there was not a lot of movement one way or the other on revenue and expenditures and the budgets appear to be in line with previous years.

Cooley reported that Mississippi Bend's previous budget had some issues, which have been resolved.

Cooley indicated that the budgets were based on current statute and legislation. Built into those budgets is the mandated reduction of \$7.5 million, but the budgets do not reflect any additional cuts should they occur.

There was discussion about the process if there are additional cuts.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that the State Board approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2017-2018.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **School Budget Review Committee Update**

Tom Cooley and Matt Coulter provided an update on the work of the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC). Cooley talked about annual routine items that went before the SBRC in March. One is approval of special education administrative costs and the other is approval of modified supplemental amount (MSA) for at-risk and drop-out prevention programs.

One item that went before the SBRC at its March hearing included approval of MSA requests previously tabled for districts that incurred negative unspent balances for fiscal year 2016. Another item was approval of a district request to use unspent unobligated general fund dollars to startup costs related to a preschool program.

There was discussion regarding how the SBRC handles startup cost issues.

### **Iowa Central Community College Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval**

Marietta Rives, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, introduced Shawn M. Haake, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education, Iowa Central Community College. In

November 2015, the State Board granted a conditional paraeducator program approval for Iowa Central Community College based on the amount of evidence of meeting the program standards. Since that time, Iowa Central Community College has worked diligently on a sophisticated curriculum and practicum experience to develop high-quality paraeducators.

Rives talked about the benefits of community college paraeducator programs and the role it plays in the teacher pipeline.

There was discussion regarding the number of hours of practicum experience the college requires.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board approve the paraeducator preparation program request submitted by Iowa Central Community College. This program approval will extend through November 2020.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Rules: Chapter 17 – Open Enrollment (Teacher Leadership and Compensation billing for open enrollment and updating terminology for students requiring special education) (Notice)**

Phil Wise, Administrative Rules Co-Coordinator, and Tom Cooley presented the Chapter 17 rules. The amendments to Chapter 17 are necessary to align with legislative changes made in 2016 Iowa Acts chapter 1036. In addition, as part of the regular five-year review of all administrative code chapters, two internal cross-references and outdated terminology for students requiring special education were also corrected.

There was discussion regarding the definition of “timely manner” used in the rules. It was determined that the phrase came directly from the statute.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 17.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Rules: Chapter 65 – Innovative Programs for At-Risk Early Elementary Students (Adopt)**

Phil Wise and Erika Cook, Chief, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, presented the Chapter 65 rules, which are being rewritten to better align with Iowa Code. The changes include the elimination of the competitive grant process, eligibility criteria, the cycle for award, reporting, and feedback.

To ensure the grant funds are distributed in a timely manner to help at-risk students, the buildings will be identified by the number of at-risk students and money will be allocated

based on a formula. Initial reports with a budget and outcomes will be submitted and approved by the start of the academic year.

In addition to the initial report, a mid-year and final report will be submitted. Iowa Code requires feedback from stakeholders. Therefore, statewide leadership teams will be used to read the final reports and provide expertise and resources to each building annually. The cycle for awards will be three years. These changes will better help buildings serving large at-risk populations and provide extra support to best help students during the early elementary years.

There was a public hearing held on March 7, 2017, and three public comments were received. All commenters were in support of the rulemaking. Two commenters requested that the rule more clearly specify academic achievement as an allowable use of funds. Changes to the Noticed rule were made to accommodate that public request. In addition, the Department made additional non-substantive changes to the Noticed rule.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board adopt Chapter 65.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### ***In re Dissolution of a District (Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District)***

Nicole Proesch, Legal Counsel, Office of the Director, presented *In re Dissolution of a District (Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District)*. Proesch explained the combination of moot and/or not ripe and recommended to dismiss the case.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision finding that the State Board does not have jurisdiction to hear this appeal under Iowa Code section 290.1 and that the request for appeal is therefore denied and the case is dismissed.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Update on the Educator Program Approval Process**

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, provided an update on the educator preparation program standards and process. He shared information on the number of completers, the number of teachers, and the number of students in educator preparation programs since 2008.

Bice also discussed the Department's work since the revised standards and process went into effect in January 2014. Nineteen program reviews have been conducted, two programs have chosen to close, 11 programs have received full State Board approval, three programs have received conditional approval by the board, and three programs have yet to be taken to the board for approval. In addition, four follow-up program reviews have been conducted, and three focus visits have been conducted.



There was discussion regarding the decrease in the number of enrollees in teacher preparation programs, the effect of recent legislative action that could affect the number of teachers entering educator preparation programs, improvements to the process, recommendations for additional changes to the process, and the State Board's authority in this area.

### **Northwestern College Educator Preparation Program Approval**

Larry Bice introduced Northwestern College faculty representatives Laura Heitritter and Chris Nonhof and shared background information on the college. Bice highlighted strengths of the institution, which includes strong faculty, use of technology, strong assessment system, and communication with candidates.

Bice reviewed compliance concerns under the following standards: Governance and Resources, Faculty, and Teacher Education Clinical.

Bice reported that Northwestern College has responded to compliance concerns and also made continuous improvement changes based on recommendations that were included in the report.

There was discussion between State Board members, Bice and Northwestern faculty members regarding the diverse experience of students, the positive reputation of Northwestern College graduates, the prerequisites to enter the teacher preparation program, the candidate screening process, the testing pass rate for student teachers, and whether the institution follows its candidates.

Northwestern College representatives answered board members' questions and provided comments about the approval process.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board approve the Northwestern College Educator Preparation Program through the next state approval cycle scheduled for the 2022-2023 academic year.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **National Association of State Boards of Education Grant from the Foundation for Child Development**

Brooke Axiotis and David Tilly, Deputy Director, talked about literacy efforts in Iowa and background information on the National Association of State Boards of Education Grant from the Foundation for Child Development. The grant builds the capacities of state boards to support the early education workforce. Iowa is one of three states receiving this grant along with Michigan and New York. This is a two-year grant and it awards each state \$7,000 per year.

The grant will allow the State Board to focus on addressing the needs of K-3 teachers by assisting them in delivering high-quality early literacy programming to students. The State Board intends to do this by developing a standard of care for K-3 teachers, which can be implemented in classrooms. After developing effective practices, the State Board will create policies to ensure teacher preparation programs produce teachers who are both knowledgeable and have the ability to implement good practice in their classrooms.

There was discussion regarding efforts and instruction at educator preparation programs in the area of early childhood literacy.

Axiotis talked about Iowa's work with the grant to focus on early literacy.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board approve the board's participation in the National Association of State Boards of Education network and accept the grant of \$14,000.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Introduction – 2017 Iowa Teacher of the Year**

Isbelia Arzola, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, introduced the 2017 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Shelly Vroegh. She is a fifth grade teacher at Lakewood Elementary School in Norwalk and also serves as a TLC instructional coach. Vroegh is the third recipient of this award from the Norwalk Community School District in the past eight years.

Vroegh provided comments and thanked State Board members for their role. She talked about her educational beliefs and passions and how they will support and enrich students in Iowa. She shared a very touching story about why she became a teacher. She also addressed what she plans to focus on as 2017 Iowa Teacher of the Year, which includes the decrease in teacher preparation enrollment, the TLC program, and the importance of sound literacy skills.

### **Every Student Succeeds Act**

Ryan Wise, David Tilly, and Barbara Ohlund, Administrative Consultant, Division of Learning and Results, provided an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- The Timeline for the Plan
- Input Sessions so Far
- Public Input Continues
- Accountability, Support and Improvement for Schools
- Indicators
- Elementary, Middle and High Schools/Measure Proposed/Description
- Current Statewide Feedback
- Critical Discussion
- Feedback

There was discussion regarding the effect of the Trump administration's change in ESSA regulations, whether active feedback is still being received, unique state components to the plan, how Iowa's graduation rate is calculated, students' perceptions of surveys, and the State Board's dissatisfaction of the term "school quality" as an indicator in the plan.

### **Assessment Update and Discussion**

Mary Ellen Miller distributed and discussed a handout from Representative Joel Fry that relates to assessment.

There was discussion regarding the assessment RFP, a fiscal note that the Department prepared relating to the proposed cost of assessments, and the Legislature's concern with the cost of a new assessment.

David Tilly reviewed Senate File 240.

There was additional discussion regarding the legislation including whether there is an opportunity to name a new task force, what will happen if the Department selects Smarter Balanced, the State Board's role and rulemaking responsibility, the timeline for implementation, the information to be included in the RFP, how the RFP process will be different than the one used by the Assessment Task Force, and whether the RFP process will select both an assessment and a vendor.

### **Early Literacy Results**

David Tilly and Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, shared information on early literacy results. Highlights of a Policy Brief - *Iowa Schools are Making a Difference in Early Literacy* were reviewed.

There was discussion about whether measurable change is actually occurring or if data are being tracked differently, the importance of aligning educator preparation programs to what is occurring in the field, and the State Board's authority.

### **Closing the Achievement Gap Report**

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, provided an overview of the findings from the Department's *Closing the Achievement Gap* report.

The presentation included:

- An update on demographic trends from the fall 2016-2017 enrollment counts.
- Reading and math proficiency results from the 2015-2016 school year, including the current achievement gaps between student groups.
- A review of the annual growth percentages in reading and math between student groups.
- A review of state and district efforts to close the achievement gaps.

There was discussion regarding the Iowa Assessments alignment and accuracy of results. In addition, there was concern with the differences in growth rates between black and white students. There was also discussion of district involvement of community partners in goals and plans to close gaps.

### **Iowa Community Colleges Joint Enrollment Report 2016**

Eric St Clair, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, talked about the content and highlights of the *Joint Enrollment Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report*.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Definitions
- Number of Jointly Enrolled Students: 2004-2016
- Joint Enrollment as a Portion of Total Enrollment
- Joint Enrollment as a Portion of Total Credit Hours
- Top Five Areas Based on Instances of Enrollment
- Percent, Total Instances of Enrollment
- Student Demographics
- Student Participation by Grade Level
- Percent of Concurrent Enrollment Courses Taught by High School Instructor
- Percent of High School Students Enrollment in Community College Coursework

St Clair shared results of a report that was prepared by the “What Works Clearinghouse,” which reviews existing research on different programs, products, practices, and policies in education.

### **Iowa Community Colleges Adult Education and Literacy Annual Report-Program Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)**

Alex Harris, Adult Education Administrative Consultant and State Director for Adult Education, Bureau of Community Colleges, presented highlights of the *Adult Education and Literacy Program Year 2016 Annual Report*.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Iowa’s Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Impact
- Iowa’s AEL Challenges
- Addressing the Challenges
- Iowa’s AEL Enrollment
- Iowa’s AEL Performance
- Core Measure Indicators
- Transition from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to the Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act (WIOA)
- Investment in Professional Development
- Targeted Training and Technical Assistance
- Future Direction for AEL
- Strategies and Next Steps

There was discussion regarding what attributed to the increase in enrollment, whether community colleges manage the HiSET system in prisons, and the change in clientele to meet the needs of businesses for increased skilled workers.

### **State Board Retreat Planning**

State Board members talked about topics to be discussed at the annual retreat. Items include updating the strategic plan, operating guidelines, and priorities as well as discussing the outcome and impact of the legislative session.

### **Board Reports**

Robert Nishimwe shared comments and the need to take action in the area of closing achievement gaps.

Brooke Axiotis attended the National Association of State Boards of Education Legislative Conference, met with Congressman David Young, and did a video interview for the Consortium for Policy Research and Education Knowledge Hub.

Angela English accompanied Ryan Wise on a school visit to the Bellevue Community School District.

Mike May has been in contact with his local legislators. He also shared comments and referenced a book by Thomas L. Friedman titled *Thank you for Being Late*.

Bettie Bolar commented on work of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education. She also shared comments about a visit to the Iowa Valley Community College District.

Diane Crookham-Johnson talked about the changes to 281 IAC Chapter 20 (collective bargaining) and effects on teachers and government employees. She also commented on the effects of ESSA and foster care requirements.

Mike Bearden continues work with the Future Ready Iowa initiative.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President

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Ryan M. Wise  
Director