



**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
May 11, 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, May 11, 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, and Mary Ellen Miller. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ryan Wise, Jeremy Varner, Shan Seivert, Staci Hupp, Thomas Mayes, Stefanie Wager, David Tilly, Phil Wise, Erika Cook, Linda Carroll, Melissa Walker, Nicole Proesch, Holly Barnes, Barbara Ledvina, Heather Doe, MaLinda Hugh-Reynolds, Isbelia Arzola, Vic Jaras, Mary Smith, Eric St Clair, Chris Russell, Cindy Weigel, Melissa Schnurr, Geri McMahon, Sandra Johnson, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Kim Heckart, College Community School District; Amber Davison, Des Moines Independent Community School District; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus; Scott Slechta, 2016 Iowa Teacher of the Year; Bridget Godes, Senate Democratic Caucus; Shelly Vroegh, 2017 Iowa Teacher of the Year; Robert Denson, Des Moines Area Community College; Richard Lee, WHO Radio; Jesús Jurado, Embassy of Spain; M.J. Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Sandy Schmitz, Iowa Reading Research Center; Chris Guidry, Pearson; Words Taylor, Nyla Mowery, Heidi Brown, Aleena Tran, Erica Quinn, Jochan Khanal, Half-Pints Poetry; and Betsy Shelton, Reaching Higher Iowa.

**STATE BOARD WORK SESSION – DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS  
TO UPDATE THE STATE BOARD’S STRATEGIC PLAN**

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department) facilitated the work session with a subcommittee of the State Board of Education (State Board). Along with Wise, the subcommittee consisted of Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Bettie Bolar, Diane Crookham-Johnson, and Brooke Axiotis.

The process for updating the strategic plan was discussed. Objectives to be accomplished at the retreat were also discussed and a draft agenda was developed.

## **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Edwards requested to amend the agenda by moving item 14 (Strategic Plan) to 11:30 a.m. and by moving lunch back 30 minutes. Mike Knedler made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the amended agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Director's Report**

Ryan Wise recognized Melissa Walker, School Nurse Consultant, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, who is the recipient of the Outstanding National School Nurse Consultant of the Year.

Wise highlighted the following legislative bills:

- Senate File (SF) 274 (Computer Science Education) has been signed by Governor Branstad. This legislation creates a statewide work group that will look at several issues related to computer science education and strengthening it across the state. Charlie Edwards will serve as an ex officio member on the work group and recommendations will come before the State Board.
- House File (HF) 473 (High School Equivalency Programs and Assessments) has also been signed by the Governor. This legislation creates more pathways for high school equivalency degrees. The State Board will have rulemaking authority in this area.
- The Governor also signed SF 240 (Statewide Assessment), which tasks the Department with creating a Request for Proposal (RFP) by July 1 to select the next assessment. The Department is working with the Department of Administrative Services to develop the RFP that is aligned with the criteria set forth in the legislation. Once the assessment is chosen, the State Board will have rulemaking authority to put that assessment into place. For the 2017-2018 school year, the current Iowa Assessments will be used. The new assessment will be put in place in 2018-2019 and beyond.

Wise reported that third grade retention and intensive summer reading program requirements are no longer a part of the early literacy law. However, that does not lessen the state's focus on early literacy. There is nearly \$11 million targeted in early literacy

funding, which includes almost \$8 million that flows to school districts that can be used locally to support early literacy, nearly \$2 million for the development of the early warning system, and nearly \$1 million to the Iowa Reading Research Center to continue their efforts around early literacy.

Wise provided a budget update. The Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system will now be part of the local school district funding formula. However, funding was eliminated for two TLC supporting components. This includes \$1 million to the area education agency (AEA) system to provide TLC training and support and \$1 million to the Department to create an administrator support program, which was a partnership with the New York City Leadership Academy.

The mentoring and induction system was also not funded. Wise explained the specifics of this program and what the Department will do to support and guide districts.

There was discussion regarding the Department's budget.

Wise commented on his school district visits and encouraged State Board members to accompany him as their schedule permits.

## **Legislative Update**

Shan Seivert, Legislative Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, provided an update on the first session of the 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Specifically, she addressed HF 564 and HF 565, which work hand-in-hand and deal with funding flexibility.

HF 564 broadens the allowable uses of professional development supplement funds, at-risk and dropout prevention funds, and preschool foundation aid. The changes impact budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2017.

Through local board resolution, HF 564 also allows districts to transfer funds from the general fund to the student activity fund an amount necessary to purchase protective and safety equipment. This portion of the bill has a retroactive effective date of July 1, 2016.

In addition, HF 564 includes language directing the Department and the State Board to make decisions regarding the provisions and expenditures of funds for the teacher salary supplement, professional development supplement, and early intervention supplement in a manner that gives deference to decisions of school districts, promotes flexibility, and minimizes intrusions. The bill also includes language that states any guidance provided on these supplements will not be inconsistent with statute or rule.

HF 565 creates a flexibility fund account and provides a means through which districts can move unexpended, unobligated monies. It also provides flexibility in allowed uses of certain categorical funds that have tended to carry forward the highest balances. Some of those categories include the preschool program foundation aid, professional development supplement, home school assistance program funds, and there are other funds that can be considered. This also needs to occur through a local board resolution. The flexibility

should reduce the amount of unexpended monies. The language of providing districts with deference exists in this bill as well.

The Department is developing the annual letter to the field that outlines the legislative session and provides an explanation to districts as to how legislation will impact them.

There was discussion about education savings accounts, HF 473 (High School Equivalency Programs and Assessments), and specifics of the flexibility fund account.

Charlie Edwards recognized Mary Ellen Miller for her role with the change/improvement to the categorical funding issue.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Angela English seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

### **Rules: Chapter 41 – Special Education and Chapter 14 – School Health Services (Notice)**

Thomas Mayes, Attorney, Iowa Department of Education, and Melissa Walker explained the proposed changes to the Chapter 41 rules. The revised 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter 41 makes changes based on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), makes changes required by recent federal rulemakings regarding maintenance of effort and significant disproportionality, makes conforming changes regarding the purchase of transportation equipment, makes technical changes regarding dispute resolution procedures, and removes two provisions related to school health for location in Chapter 14. The revised Chapter 14 removes two provisions on student health matters and relocates them to Chapter 14 (the chapter on school health), as they have always applied to all students and not just special education students. The language in those two provisions has been updated to reflect current practice.

There was discussion regarding how the rules address medication errors and the value of school nurses in the state.

**Motion:** Angela English made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapters 41 and 14.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 33 – Educating the Homeless (Notice)**

Nicole Proesch, Administrative Rules Co-Coordinator, and Sandra Johnson, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, presented the proposed changes to the Chapter 33 rules. The revised 281 IAC Chapter 33 rules incorporate changes to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431, et seq.), as reauthorized in December 2015 by ESSA. Changes, as a result of ESSA, include modifying the requirements of the

State Plan to include procedures that ensure that homeless students have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other students. This equal access includes removing barriers to students accessing academic or extracurricular activities because of their homelessness. Other changes include removal of “awaiting foster care placement” from the definition of homeless, changes to the definition of School of Origin, and clarifications regarding required transportation for the school of origin.

There was discussion regarding the rationale for the changes to the foster care placement and how the rules address homeless students accessing extracurricular activities.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 33.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 21 – Community Colleges (Notice)**

Nicole Proesch and Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, presented the proposed changes to the Chapter 21 rules. The amendments to Chapter 21 incorporate changes to sections of IAC, which establish basic requirements for certificate, diploma, and degree programs; and instructional courses for drinking drivers, both offered by community colleges. Regarding 281 IAC 21.9, changes include updating terminology from technical “specialty component” to technical “core” and establishing a minimum technical core course requirement for diplomas. Regarding 281 IAC 21.32, changes include an increase to tuition fees for an instructional course for drinking drivers offered by community colleges to \$140.00, and an increase to the administrative fee collected by the Department to \$15.00 for individuals enrolled in an Iowa instructional course for drinking drivers and to \$37.50 for individuals enrolled in an out-of-state instructional course for drinking drivers. The fee adjustments reflect the recommendation of a drinking driver’s instruction course advisory committee and reflect the cost of providing such courses.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 21.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Area Education Agency 267 Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval**

Linda Carroll, Chief, Bureau of Educator Quality, presented the AEA 267 Paraeducator Preparation Program. Since 2015, AEA 267 has been building a comprehensive paraeducator certification program. In 2015, the Generalist I program was approved and in 2016 an Early Childhood program was approved. AEA 267 has upgraded their program to a blended approach (face-to-face and online offerings) and has done a good job of creating performance assessments for competencies that demand demonstration of that

skill. In addition, the agency has added learning modules that extend beyond the certification program and are taking steps to create a quality curriculum.

In an effort to better develop the content of this Special Needs program and to keep approval processes in sync, it was requested that this program be approved through March 2018.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board approve a conditional, one-year Special Needs paraeducator preparation program submitted by AEA 267. This program approval will extend through March 2018.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Social Studies Standards Adoption**

Erika Cook, Chief, introduced Stefanie Wager, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum. Wager introduced Kim Heckart, Third Grade Teacher, College Community School District, and Amber Davison, TLC Coach, Des Moines Independent Community School District.

Cook reported that the social studies standards were written last year and were reviewed this year.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Social Studies Standards Writing and Review Team Overview
  - Why New, Why Now?
  - State Board Vision
  - Mission and Vision of Social Studies in Iowa
  - Timeline of Writing and Review Process
- Standards Writing Process
  - Writing Team Membership
  - Writing Team Organization
  - Writing Team Process
  - Anchor Standards
  - Criteria
  - Draft Standards
- Standards Review Process
  - Review Team Membership
  - Review Team Process
  - Feedback on Draft Standards
  - Summary of Changes
- Implementation Recommendations
  - Data that Informed Recommendations
  - Implementation Plan

Heckart and Davison shared comments regarding how the standards will impact teachers and students in Iowa.

There was discussion regarding the need for diversity and culturally responsive teaching to be adequately addressed in the standards.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded that the State Board approve the social studies standards and recommendations from the Social Studies Standards Review Team.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Early Access Program**

Cindy Weigel, Consultant, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, and Melissa Schnurr, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, provided an overview of Early ACCESS. The Department, as lead agency for Early ACCESS, is responsible for improving the results for children and families served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act Part C as outlined in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) submitted annually and approved by the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

A PowerPoint titled *Focusing on Results for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families* was presented that addressed:

- Overview
- What is SSIP and Why Now?
- SSIP Builds Upon Theory of Action
- Three Improvement Strategies
- Iowa Distance Mentor Model (DMM)
- Iowa DMM Overview
- Components of Iowa DMM
- Evidence-Based Instructional Practices/Foundations of Family-Guided Routines-Based Interventions/Caregiver Coaching in Iowa DMM
- Evidence-Based Implementation/How is Family-Guided Routines-Based Interventions Being Scaled Up?
- Evaluating Change
- Four Levels of System Evaluation
- Early Childhood Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers in Early ACCESS

There was discussion regarding the criteria to qualify for services, what the services entail, the age limit for services, and who identifies children for services.

### **Iowa Teacher of the Year (2016) – End-of-Year Report**

Isbelia Arzola, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, introduced Scott Slechta, 2016 Iowa Teacher of the Year. Slechta talked about his experiences while serving in this role and reviewed his four platform issues:

- Importance of arts in the classrooms and in schools
- Acceptance of diversity and anti bullying
- Importance of literacy in the classroom and the teacher librarian in the school
- Importance of teacher leadership

A video was shown highlighting Slechta's experiences while serving as the teacher of the year.

## **Strategic Plan**

Ryan Wise reviewed the work session that was held with a subcommittee of the State Board where the process for updating the strategic plan was discussed. Objectives to be accomplished at the retreat were also discussed and a draft of the retreat agenda was developed.

Mike Knedler began chairing the meeting.

## **Visiting Teachers from Spain Program**

Isbelia Arzola, Responsible Officer, Visiting Teachers From Spain, introduced Jesús Jurado, Educator Advisor, Embassy of Spain. Arzola and Jurado provided comments and shared background information on the Visiting Teachers from Spain program.

The Iowa Visiting Teachers from Spain program was established in 2002. The program is endorsed by the United States Department of Education, and sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of the Education, Culture, and Sports. The goals of the program are to strengthen the relations between the United States and Spain, provide support for the implementation of the bilingual/dual language and multicultural education programs that help students prepare for their future, and to provide all educators with a highly effective professional learning opportunity.

A booklet titled *Spanish Visiting Teachers Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska* was distributed.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- General Information
- The Program
- 2017 Recruitment
- 1,968 Visiting Teachers 2016-2017; 36 States, One Province
- Visiting Teachers from Spain in Iowa
- Locations Since 2011
- Process
- Orientation and Follow-up

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant**

Erika Cook introduced Vic Jaras, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum. Jaras provided background information on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program. Afterschool programs in Iowa are changing the lives of at-risk children by improving attendance and behavior, providing enrichment-based learning and supporting academic gains in reading and math through a whole child focus on supporting the developmental needs of children.

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program is authorized under Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program provides students in high-need, high-poverty communities the opportunity to participate in afterschool programming.

Effective afterschool programs bring a wide range of benefits to youth, families, and communities. Afterschool programs can boost academic performance, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe, structured environment for the children of working parents.

Words Taylor, who runs the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Half-Pints Poetry Program, introduced Nyla Mowery, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Half-Pints Poetry Program coach; and Des Moines Independent Community School District King Elementary students Aleena Tran, Erica Quinn, and Jochan Khanal, who are part of the program. The students recited poems that they created.

There was discussion regarding the criteria for a community to apply for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant and the length of the funding.

## **Board Reports**

Bettie Bolar attended an Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education meeting. She also attended a Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce meeting where Ryan Wise spoke and visited two Marshalltown Community School District elementary schools with Wise.

Diane Crookham-Johnson accompanied Ryan Wise on a school visit to the Chariton Community School District and plans to visit the Charles City Community School District with Wise as well.

Mary Ellen Miller has been in contact with legislators regarding the 2018 legislative session.

Brooke Axiotis provided an update on the National Association of State Boards of Education grant. David Tilly, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the objective of the grant.

Ryan Wise did a follow-up visit to Des Moines North High School to observe the C.O.R.E. (Community of Racial Equity) program. North High School also has a "Link Crew" where juniors and seniors lead freshmen orientation.

Angela English made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded to reverse agenda items 16, 17, 18 to 18, 17, 16. The motion carried.

## **Des Moines Area Community College Comprehensive Accreditation Report – Fiscal Year 2017**

Chris Russell, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges, introduced Robert Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). DMACC's accreditation report was presented, which is an evaluation of DMACC for continued state accreditation as an associate degree-granting institution. The Department conducted the on-site portion of the evaluation on March 20-21, 2017. The findings reflect the work of the accreditation team during the comprehensive review of DMACC.

DMACC is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that conducts college reviews every five years. In an effort not to duplicate the HLC accreditation process, the state process reviews the most recent HLC report to see if any follow-up is needed and then focuses on the college's compliance with state criteria/standards. State standards are reviewed through a structured process by Department staff and community college peer reviewers. Because this was a comprehensive review, two peer reviewers joined the Department accreditation team on the site visit.

Russell reviewed the accreditation cycle, DMACC's Special Topic Summary – Liberal Arts Pathways, and the criteria/standards that are reviewed as part of the comprehensive accreditation review. The standards are:

- Faculty Qualifications
- Faculty Load
- Special Needs
- Career and Technical Education Program Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Physical Plant and Facilities
- Quality Faculty Plan
- Senior Year Plus Program

Russell indicated that the Community College Council made a formal recommendation to grant DMACC continued accreditation.

Denson provided comments about the accreditation process and presented a PowerPoint highlighting DMACC.

**Motion:** Mary Ellen Miller made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board grant continued accreditation for DMACC. A state interim accreditation evaluation will be conducted in fiscal year 2022.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report – Fiscal Year 2018**

Eric St Clair, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, presented the Community College Certified Budget Report. St Clair reviewed the budget process,

purpose, and content of the report. The budgets contained in the report are used by the community colleges to set their property tax levies for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mike Knedler reported that the Community College Council recommended that the State Board approve the community college budgets.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded that the State Board approve the community college certified budgets as provided.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Community College Program Outcomes Report 2017**

Jeremy Varner presented the Iowa Community Colleges Education Outcomes Report. This report provides educational outcomes of students enrolled in community college certificate, diploma, and association degree programs during academic years 2011-2015. Developed through linkages between state and national educational and employment administrative records, the report provides information about community college awards, time-to-degree, retention, migration, transfers to other postsecondary institutions, employment and wages and career clusters.

There was discussion regarding the effects on community college funding when property tax increase requests are not passed by the voters.

Mike Knedler adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

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Michael L. Knedler  
Vice President

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Ryan M. Wise  
Director