



**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
March 29, 2018**

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President  
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler  
Vice President  
Council Bluffs

Brooke Axiotis  
Des Moines

Michael Bearden  
Gladbrook

Bettie Bolar  
Marshalltown

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 29, 2018, in the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. State Board members present were Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Mary Ellen Miller, Brooke Axiotis, Robert Nishimwe, Angela English, Bettie Bolar, Mike May, and Mike Bearden. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ryan Wise, David Tilly, Jeremy Varner, Matt Coulter, Pradeep Kotamraju, Tom Cooley, Amy Williamson, Barbara Burrows, Eric St Clair, Kimberly Villotti, Barbara Ohlund, Staci Hupp, Cindy Butler, Marietta Rives, Paula Nissen, Brad Niebling, Holly Barnes, Janet Boyd, Erika Cook, Eric Heitz, Jay Pennington, Vladimir Bassis, Thomas Mayes, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Jodi Grover, Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; Sandy Schmitz, Iowa Reading Research Center; Josie Gerrietts, Legislative Services Agency; Mackenzie Ryan, Des Moines Register; Darice Keating, Renaissance Learning, Inc.; Bill Decker, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Daniel Kinney Jr., Jim Kersten, Gretchen Miller, Dan Anderson, Ron Maulsby, Sara Scharf, and T.J. Martin, Iowa Central Community College; Tom Lane, Iowa Area Education Agencies; Tony Voss and Loretta Martzahl, Des Moines Independent Community School District; Jason Crowley, Iowa Workforce Development; Barbara Crittenden and Bill Taylor, Southwestern Community College; Carl Turner, Beau Ruleaux, Brittany Hill, Tawney Schreier, Sarah Flores, Stephanie Medina, Griselda Gutierrez, Jose Rodriguez, and Nailea Valdivia, Storm Lake Community School District; and Melea Raveling, Storm Lake Community School District Board.

**STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that item 4(d) be moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Director's Report**

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), recognized Charlie Edwards for 18 years of service to the State Board of Education (State Board). Wise announced that Diane Crookham-Johnson resigned her position on the board effective February 25, 2018, to accept a position as a Mahaska County Magistrate Judge. Because of this role, she is unable to hold any appointed position to a governmental committee, board, or commission. Crookham-Johnson served on the board for six years.

Wise reported that School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) has launched a statewide principal support program, which builds on the Department's previous work with the New York City Leadership Academy. This program is designed to support the transition to Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system and to maximize the impact of principals. SAI will support more than 100 administrators next year.

Wise highlighted Senate File (SF) 2364 – Security Plans. This bill received bipartisan support to ensure all schools in Iowa have a high-quality, regularly practiced school safety plan.

Wise shared information about the work of the Postsecondary Readiness Index Committee, which is part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. This group is looking at how to ensure that not only does Iowa maintain the focus on graduation, but at the same time guarantees that students are prepared once they graduate to be successful in college or in a career.

### **Legislative Report**

Shan Seivert, Legislative Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, reported on the following Department-sponsored legislative bills:

House File (HF) 2390 – American Sign Language as a World Language. This bill allows American Sign Language to count as a World Language for the purposes of offer and teach. It also changes Iowa Code references of foreign language to world language. This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

SF 2114 – Department of Education Code Corrections and Clarifications. This bill is designed to clean up sections of Iowa Code related to education matters and does not establish any new policies. This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

SF 2131 – Iowa Learning Online (ILO) – Expanded Access. This bill has been signed by the Governor. This bill expands access to ILO courses to students receiving independent private instruction, competent private instruction, or attending non-accredited private schools. Parents or guardians would be responsible for paying the same fee public schools pay for the ILO course.

The Department also put forth the TLC Instructional Rubrics bill (HF 2398), which did not survive the first funnel. This bill would have required school districts, as a condition of receiving TLC funds, to develop, adopt, or retain an instructional rubric or framework. Despite the bill not moving forward, the Department intends to provide support and guidance to school districts interested in adopting an instructional rubric.

Seivert also reported on the following education-related bills:

SF 2364 – Security Plans. This bill ensures that all schools in Iowa have a high-quality, regularly practiced school safety plan. The Department took a leadership role in drafting the language for the bill.

HF 2235 – State Assessment. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

There was discussion regarding HF 2071 – Community College Accreditation, which did not survive the second funnel; HF 2280 – Performance-based Assessments; SF 2117 – De-appropriations; and the Department’s budget.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mary Ellen Miller requested that the January State Board minutes be amended to read “local public school board” on page 6 under the Charter and Innovation Zone Schools in Iowa Legislative Report section.

Miller made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded to approve the revised and amended consent agenda. The motion passed.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Rules: Chapter 41 – Special Education (Adopt)**

Thomas Mayes, Attorney, Division of Learning and Results, presented the Chapter 41 rules. Changes to these rules are required based on amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that were made by the ESSA. On June 30, 2017, the United States Department of Education (USED) issued final regulations that incorporated the changes that the ESSA made to the IDEA. The State Board noticed these rules separately from a currently pending rulemaking. This is because these rules amendments, although required by the ESSA, represent a practice change for many Iowa educators. Item 1 amends the definition of “regular high school diploma.” This amendment makes clear that a regular high school diploma must be fully aligned to State-required standards.

In Iowa's case, that would be the graduation requirements set forth in Iowa Code section 256.7(26). Item 2 explains the requirements that all students with disabilities participate in statewide and district-wide assessments, including providing children with significant intellectual disabilities with alternate assessments aligned to alternate academic achievement standards.

Mayes explained the public comment received and how the Department would respond to the concerns raised in the public comment. Based on the mandatory nature of the rule language, no changes were made.

**Motion:** Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 41.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School Charter Renewal**

Janet Boyd, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, provided an overview of the Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School Charter report. Boyd stated that even though the charter is not meeting all of its goals, it is meeting the intent, which is to prepare students to be college and career ready.

Boyd reported that 11 letters of support were received from constituents. She recommended that the State Board approve the charter for four years.

Beau Ruleaux, Principal, Storm Lake High School, and Ryan Wise responded to a question regarding the factors that could have affected the proficiency decline in 2015-2016.

Ruleaux and Brittany Hill, Charter School Coordinator, Storm Lake High School, responded to a question regarding the decrease in the number of English Language Learners attaining degrees and credits. They explained there are a number of high-school age students coming to the district who are not eligible to be a part of the charter due to a lack of adequate English skills or have had their schooling interrupted (not enough time to bridge the gap in skills so they can be successful in a college course). This situation impacts the number of students in the charter taking college courses.

Charter school student, Jose Rodriguez, shared his perspective on how the charter school has helped him prepare for college.

There was discussion regarding how students are selected/recruited to attend the charter school, the graduation process, factors contributing to the difficulty of charters meeting the goals, and what evidence/data the Department needs for the goals to be met.

Charlie Edwards recognized Daniel Kinney Jr., President, Iowa Central Community College, and Carl Turner, Superintendent, Storm Lake Community School District, who shared comments.

Mary Ellen Miller complimented charter school administrators and staff for their nimbleness.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike May seconded that the Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School Charter be granted a renewal of their charter through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

***In re Open Enrollment of L.T. (Des Moines Independent Community School District)***

Nicole Proesch, Administrative Law Judge, presented *In re Open Enrollment of L.T. (Des Moines Independent Community School District)*. Proesch recommended that the State Board approve the proposed decision of the Des Moines Independent Community School District denying the open enrollment on the basis that there were multiple attendance centers that the student could attend.

There was discussion regarding the timing of when the student could switch schools within the Des Moines Independent Community School District, whether the Department had any additional information available on the student, whether there was any information that suggested that there was harassment by anyone else at the school, and whether there was information regarding how widespread the release of the video was.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the local board of directors of the Des Moines Independent Community School District denying the open enrollment request of L.T.

**Vote:** The motion passed. Nay: Mike May

***In re Expulsion of M.F. (Clear Creek Amana Community School District)***

Nicole Proesch presented *In re Expulsion of M.F. (Clear Creek Amana Community School District)*. Proesch recommended that the State Board approve the proposed decision of the Clear Creek Amana Community School District.

There was discussion regarding the school district's responsibility to this student.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the local board of directors of the Clear Creek Amana Community School District to expel M.F. from school for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year and prohibit him from participating in school activities.

Expanding on the discussion regarding the school district's responsibility to help this student, Proesch indicated that the local school board recommended for M.F. to have a mental health and substance abuse evaluation and to follow through with any recommended treatment before returning to school.

Ryan Wise announced that Governor Kim Reynolds signed SF 2113. This bill requires school employee training and protocols relating to suicide prevention and the identification of adverse childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response.

There was additional discussion regarding how this situation would have been handled for a special education student, whether M.F. was receiving in-school counseling, and whether a student that is expelled can take classes online and who would be financially responsible.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

### **Central Rivers Area Education Agency Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval**

Marietta Rives, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, reported that Central Rivers Area Education Agency (AEA) submitted a request for approval of the Generalist, Level I Certificate, Early Childhood and Special Needs Areas of Concentration. Upon review of the evidence, it was determined that Central Rivers AEA has met each of the program standard requirements and has curriculum exhibits for each area of concentration. All certificates represent the recently reviewed Board of Educational Examiners competencies.

There was discussion regarding the type of monitoring and review that is done between now and the effective date of 2023 and whether there are school districts in the state that require these classes of its paraeducators.

**Motion:** Mike Bearden made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board approve the paraeducator program request submitted by Central Rivers Area Education Agency. This approval will extend through March 2023.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Southwestern Community College Comprehensive Accreditation Report – Fiscal Year 2018**

Barbara Burrows, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, presented the Southwestern Community College (SWCC) Comprehensive Accreditation Report – Fiscal Year 2018. SWCC representatives Barbara Crittenden, President, and Bill Taylor, Chief Academic Officer, introduced themselves and provided comments throughout the presentation.

The Department conducted the on-site portion of the evaluation on November 29-30, 2017, and the report reflects the information reviewed during both the desk review and the on-site visit. SWCC 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 Iowa state criteria/standards. State standards are reviewed through a structured process by Department staff and two external community college peer reviewers.

Burrows provided a synopsis of the comprehensive accreditation report. She reviewed the institution's history and profile, along with each of the eight state standards: Faculty Qualifications, Faculty Teaching Load, Special Needs, Career and Technical Education Program Evaluation and Timelines, Strategic Plan, Physical Plant and Facilities, Quality Faculty Plan, and Senior Year Plus Programs. She reported that SWCC provided adequate evidence of compliance with each standard, resulting in a clean report with no findings.

Comprehensive accreditation reviews involve a "special topic" for which the colleges request assistance. In this case, SWCC wanted to consult with peer institutions regarding Outcomes Reporting (Continuous Improvement) and effective utilization of data. Crittenden and Taylor discussed this topic and expressed their appreciation to the Department and the four colleges that participated in their discussion. In addition, Crittenden provided details about the institution's strategic planning process, and Taylor discussed SWCC's relationship with students and parents through their Senior Year Plus program. They have implemented a course audit feature for their concurrently enrolled high school students to illustrate how they can efficiently complete a degree with SWCC upon graduation from high school. The audit comes with a cost comparison to help parents understand the benefit of continuing their studies at SWCC before transferring to a four-year institution.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded that the State Board grant continued accreditation for Southwestern Community College. A state interim accreditation evaluation will be conducted in fiscal year 2023.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

Crittenden reported that the elimination of duplication between the HLC process and the Department's accreditation process has worked well for Iowa and that she and her staff appreciated the professionalism of the Department's staff while conducting their accreditation review.

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

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, and Paula Nissen, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges, presented the Community College Program Outcomes Program. This report provides educational outcomes of students enrolled in community college certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs during academic years (AY) 2012 through 2016. 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. Data are aggregated by student cohorts, types of awards earned, program types, and the 16 national career clusters.

Varner shared information regarding the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Reverse Transfer Service, which is a partnership between community colleges, public universities, and the NSC to boost college completion rates and support the Future Ready Iowa Initiative. There was discussion regarding the process, who initiates the transfer, and the threshold.

Nissen acknowledged Jason Crowley, Labor Market Research Economist, Iowa Workforce Development, and Vladimir Bassis, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges, for their assistance in developing this report.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Brief History
- Timeliness of Reporting
- Program Outcomes Report AY 2012 to AY 2016
- Report Contents
- Statewide Program Outcomes
- Joint Enrollment AY 2012 to AY 2016
- Status of Graduates First Year After Award
- Continuing Education
- Continued Education One Year After Award (2013-2017)
- Employment One Year After Award (2017) (2016 Cohort)
- Statewide Employment and Wages by Award Type (2016 Cohort)
- Wage Increase Over Time 2012 Cohort (measured each year)
- Sample of 22+ Certificate/Diploma Programs
- Outcome by Cluster (2016 Cohort)
- Career Cluster to Industry Mapping of Students
- Resources
- Interactive Site – State-level Data for all Cohorts
- College Specific Dashboards
- Tutorial Videos
- Upcoming Research and Reporting

Mike Knedler commented on the value of data and the great work of the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation with very limited staff.

### **Iowa Community Colleges Joint Enrollment Report 2017**

Jeremy Varner and Eric St Clair, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, presented the Iowa Community Colleges Joint Enrollment Report 2017. This report provides information on high school students who are jointly enrolled in community colleges. Joint enrollment of high school students accounts for more than 37 percent of total community

college credit enrollment and almost 23 percent of total credit hours. In Iowa, high school students enroll in college credit courses through a variety of ways, including Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) courses, courses offered through a contract between a local school district and a community college (concurrent enrollment), and independent enrollment as tuition-paying students.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Overview/Definitions
- Student Headcount
- Credit Hour Enrollment
- Offering Arrangement
- Subject Areas
- Student Demographics
- Percent of Concurrent Enrollment Courses Taught by High School Instructor
- Percent of High School Students (9-12 Grades) Enrollment in Iowa Community Colleges During AY 2016 – 2017

There was discussion regarding examples and funding of PSEO and the biggest barriers.

## **Board Reports**

Brooke Axiotis attended two meetings of the Postsecondary Readiness Index Committee.

Mary Ellen Miller reported that it is important for State Board members to stay in touch with their local school districts.

Mike May lobbied on educational issues and visited some school districts.

Mike Knedler visited with his local legislators regarding assessment.

Mike Bearden commented on the success of the Future Ready Iowa Act legislation.

Angela English accompanied Department consultant's Larry Bice and Carole Richardson to the Buena Vista University six-month review of its practitioner preparation program.

Bettie Bolar shared information about the work of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education. She talked about a Marshalltown Rotary presentation on TLC and conversations with teachers. She also did a presentation for a local sorority on the State Board and received input regarding assessment. Ryan Wise commented on feedback from Bolar's conversations on TLC and competency-based education.

## **Lunch and Recognition of Charlie Edwards, Diane Crookham-Johnson, and Robert Nishimwe**

State Board members and Department staff recognized Charlie Edwards for 18 years of service, Diane Crookham-Johnson for six years of service, and Robert Nishimwe for two years of service to the State Board. Edwards and Nishimwe shared comments.

### **Iowa Early Learning Standards – 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2017)**

Erika Cook, Chief, introduced Kimberly Villotti, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, who presented the Iowa Early Learning Standards (IELS). The IELS were first developed in 2006 in response to federal requirements and included a broad group of leaders representing Iowa's early care and education system. A second revision occurred in 2012. In 2017, more than 60 early childhood stakeholders met again to review and revise the IELS.

The IELS describe what young children should know and be able to do throughout their first five years prior to entering a formal school setting.

The IELS are represented as an expectation in 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 16 Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs and in Chapter 41 Special Education. School districts providing preschool programming (Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs and/or Early Childhood Special Education Services) demonstrate how curriculum, assessment, staff development, and instructional strategies are aligned with the IELS.

The IELS 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2017) revisions include several changes in format as well as updated content for rationale, benchmarks, and references. In addition, Department early childhood and content specialist consultants collaborated to create five alignment documents of the IELS to the Iowa Core for literacy, fine arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Iowa Early Learning Standards
- Iowa Department of Education as part of Early Childhood Iowa State System
- Updated Format
- Implementation

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded that the State Board approve the Iowa Early Learning Standards – 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2017)

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the users of the infant and toddler standards, assessment of the standards, and whether these standards will have an impact on school readiness.

Brooke Axiotis shared information about Megan Srinivas who was the first student State Board member. Srinivas is now a medical doctor in Fort Dodge and is running for the Iowa House of Representatives.

### **Closing Achievement Gaps Report**

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, presented findings from the Closing Achievement Gaps report. This report contains the latest information about Iowa student demographics and achievement trends between groups of Iowa students.

This presentation included:

- An update on demographic trends;
- An update on achievement gaps data (specifically, assessment results and postsecondary readiness/college enrollment rates); and
- A review of state efforts to close the achievement gaps.

There was discussion regarding why the gaps appear to be widening and the state's obligation to third grade students who are behind in reading and other students who are behind in other subject areas.

### **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies**

Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Tom Cooley, Chief, Bureau of Finance, Facilities, Operation and Transportation Services, presented the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies. 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.

Cooley explained the AEA funding and budget process and reviewed the following documents that were presented to the board: Definitions, Proposed Resources by Major Source, Resources by Major Source, Proposed Expenditures by Function Category, Expenditures by Function, and the Three-Year Budget Comparison.

Williamson reviewed Iowa Code 273.3(12) - Duties and powers of area education agency board, which states in part:

*Prepare an annual budget estimating income and expenditures for programs and services as provided in sections 273.1, 273.2, this section, sections 273.4 to 273.9, and chapter 256B within the limits of funds provided under section 256B.9 and chapter 257.*

*The proposed budget as approved by the board shall then be submitted to the state board of education, on forms provided by the department, no later than March 15 preceding the next fiscal year for approval. The state board shall review the proposed budget of each area education agency and shall before May 1, either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments of the state board included. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the state board for*

*final approval not later than May 15. The state board shall give final approval only to budgets submitted by area education agencies accredited by the state board or that have been given conditional accreditation by the state board.*

The Department recommended that the State Board approve the budgets for: Keystone AEA, Prairie Lakes AEA, Central Rivers AEA, Grant Wood AEA, Heartland AEA, Northwest AEA, Green Hills AEA, and Great Prairie AEA.

The Department recommended that the State Board return the budget for Mississippi Bend AEA with comments requiring the agency to do the following: 1) provide assurance in writing no later than the May 10 meeting of the State Board, that the AEA will construct a plan to balance the budget within two years, and 2) submit the complete two-year budget plan, approved by the AEA board, no later than September 1, 2018. The FY 2018-19 budget must then be approved at the May 10 meeting to allow the AEA to commence spending as of July 1.

Bill Decker, Administrator, Mississippi Bend AEA, stated that Mississippi Bend is in agreement with the Department's recommendation. He discussed the factors that led to the financial deficit and the agency's efforts to correct the situation.

Decker indicated that the agency's budget is 80 percent personnel costs. Charlie Edwards talked about the State Board's AEA accreditation responsibility and questioned the impact the personnel cuts will have on the quality of services that can be provided to the students. Decker reviewed a chart reflecting the changes to the agency's staffing and payroll from FY14 to FY15. He indicated that the agency has worked hard to make their budget decisions to be the least impactful on their schools and children.

There was discussion regarding the early warning system for school districts and what the Department has done to work with the AEA to turn this situation around. Williamson reported that Mississippi Bend AEA received an accreditation visit in March 2015 and that an accreditation visit was repeated in 2016. These visits did not examine financial issues, but did speak to the concern of finances impacting programs. There was a limited fiscal review in 2016. The Department has offered a variety of recommendations in the areas of program and finances over the past few years.

Decker referred to a letter he received from the Department dated September 21, 2016, stating that, "*The adjustments made by the administration are appropriate and are in context with changes the review team deemed as necessary to reduce spending and provide proper leadership and fiscal management.*"

Charlie Edwards requested that the agency come back to the Department with an assurance that this is going to be addressed with minimum impact on programming.

Cooley talked about the early warning system for school districts and the possible development of a similar system for AEAs.

There was additional discussion regarding the AEA funding and budget process, what the agency will do to meet the requirements to balance the budget in two years, and the vulnerability of criticism of AEAs and the Department.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2018-2019, with the exception of Mississippi Bend AEA. For Mississippi Bend AEA, it is recommended to return the budget with comments requiring the agency to do the following: 1) provide assurance in writing no later than the May 10 meeting of the State Board, that the AEA will construct a plan to balance the budget within two years, and 2) submit the complete two-year budget plan, approved by the AEA board, no later than September 1, 2018. The Department is directed to conduct an on-site accreditation visit of the agency by September 1, 2019.

**Vote:** The motion passed. Nay: Mary Ellen Miller

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

Tom Cooley shared highlights of the March 13, 2018, School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) meeting. The March meeting included annually-requested modified supplemental amount (MSA) for special education administrative costs and at-risk/returning dropout and dropout prevention applications.

Cooley explained that special education administrative costs requests only apply to certain circumstances that justify charging administrative costs to the special education instructional program funding: a) when the district has a separate facility for special education with a sufficient student population warranting a special education administrator, and b) when a district has one or more private facilities (such as a private residential facility or day program) located within the district with a sufficient special education student population that is served by the district.

Requests for MSA for at-risk/returning dropout and dropout prevention continue to be requested by the majority of school districts. This year's requests included 276 of the state's 333 districts. The approved amounts provide additional resources for the upcoming school year.

In December, the SBRC tabled a request for MSA from the Davenport Community School District due to incurring a negative unspent authorized budget for FY17 and requested they appear in March with a revised workout plan. The Committee accepted the plan with reservations and directed the district to return to the October (2018) meeting to provide a progress report on the corrective plan. In October, the district is also allowed to request MSA in the amount of \$4,056,342.

Other action included:

- Approved MSA for asbestos abatement and testing for the East Mills Community School District (CSD) and the Iowa City CSD.
- Approved MSA for the Iowa City CSD for initial staffing costs due to opening of a new high school building (Liberty High School).
- Approved a transfer from the general fund to the student construction fund for startup costs for a new construction program for the Burlington CSD.

In response to a question, Cooley indicated that it is too early to determine if any of the actions were affected by the relaxation of categorical funding.

### **Every Student Succeeds Act Update**

David Tilly, Deputy Director, provided an update on the status of the ESSA plan, which was submitted to the USED in September. The Department is in the process of making revisions to the ESSA plan based on feedback from the USED. Tilly explained the revisions and indicated that the new direction of the state and the major components of the plan remain intact. Once the plan receives final approval, the Department will begin implementation.

Ryan Wise recognized Department staff for their tremendous efforts on Iowa's ESSA plan. Charlie Edwards commented on the strides that have been made by Department staff working to finalize the plan.

### **State Board Retreat Planning**

Ryan Wise announced that the Governor has appointed Joshua Byrnes and Kimberly Wayne to serve on the State Board effective May 1. A new student member will also be joining the board.

Topics to be discussed at the retreat were discussed.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

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Brooke Axiotis  
President

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Ryan M. Wise  
Director