



**Minutes
State Board of Education
June 14-15, 2018**

Brooke Axiotis
President
Des Moines

Michael Bearden
Vice President
Gladbrook

Bettie Bolar
Marshalltown

Joshua Byrnes
Osage

Angela English
Dyersville

Michael L. Knedler
Council Bluffs

Mike May
Spirit Lake

Mary Ellen Miller
Mason City and
Wayne County

Kimberly Wayne
Des Moines

Fez Zafar
Student Member
Des Moines

Ryan M. Wise
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education retreat/meeting was held on Thursday, June 14, and Friday, June 15, 2018, at the Des Moines Area Community College. State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Joshua Byrnes, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, Kimberly Wayne, and Fez Zafar. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ryan Wise, David Tilly, Jeremy Varner, Pradeep Kotamraju, Shan Seivert, Larry Bice, Linda Carroll, Brad Niebling, Jay Pennington, Nicole Proesch, Amy Williamson, Erika Cook, Isbelia Arzola, Barbara Burrows, Staci Hupp, Janet Boyd, Cindy Butler, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Diane Crookham-Johnson, Robert Nishimwe, Jimmy Le, Petra Lange, and Emma James, Equity in Education; Tom Ahart, Des Moines Independent Community School District; McKenzie Ryan, Des Moines Register; Jim Lindsay and Jameela Conway-Turner, REL Midwest; Kristy Traynor, Attorney General's Office; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus Staff; Rob Denson, Des Moines Area Community College; Karleen Stephens and Lora Paxson, Diagonal Community School District; Norene Bunt, Orient-Macksburg Community School District; Ann Wiley, Johnston Community School District; and Rita Martens.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

Brooke Axiotis provided opening remarks and talked about the goals of the retreat.

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), shared comments and talked about the purpose of the retreat.

Equity in Education Ad Hoc Committee Findings

Petra Lange, Special Programs Coordinator, Drake University School of Education, Jimmy Le, Johnston High School graduate, and Robert Nishimwe, Des Moines North High School graduate, presented findings of the work of the Education in Equity Ad Hoc Committee.

A document titled “Equity in Education Ad Hoc Task Force 2017-2018” was distributed.

A PowerPoint titled “Equity in Education” was presented that addressed:

- Who are we?
 - Community of Racial Equity
 - What is Core for Advancement?
- 2017-2018 Equity in Education Ad Hoc Task Force
 - Defining Our Terms
- What’s bringing us here?
 - Achievement Gaps Affect All Grades Over a Long Period of Time
 - Iowa Assessment Reading Grade 11: Race/Ethnicity Achievement Gaps – Percent Above Proficient
 - Iowa Assessment Mathematics Grade 8: Race/Ethnicity Achievement Gaps – Percent Above Proficient
 - Longer Time Ranges Show Similar Trends
- Who are we serving in Iowa schools?
 - Iowa is Growing in Diversity: Preparing Workforce and Innovation
- Are we preparing students for success?
 - Graduation Rate
 - Extrapolating Graduation Data
- What’s needed for Iowa’s economy?
 - Industry and Occupational Requirements by 2025
 - Preparing Workforce and Fostering Innovation
 - Projections show that between 2010 and 2025, Iowa’s economy will grow from 1.59 million jobs to 1.84 million jobs, an increase of roughly 250,000 net new jobs
- What are students experiencing?
 - Effect of Curriculum
 - Effect of Culture
 - Effect of Policy and Practice
- Goal: Establish a statewide system that works to narrow the achievement gaps for students of color measured in Iowa Assessment scores, graduation rates, and postsecondary enrollment rates within the next year
- Statistics demonstrate that the quality of the teacher is the most important predictor of student success
- Recommendation #1:
 - Create a Task Force that is ongoing and official (not an ad hoc)
- Recommendation #2:
 - Increase the preservice and inservice learning for teachers
- Recommendation #3:
 - A Bureau Chief of Equity

Ryan Wise thanked the presenters and shared additional information relating to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) score gap and graduation rate data.

Diane Crookham-Johnson provided comments about the work of the Equity in Education Ad Hoc Committee and the need for Iowa to adapt to the changing student population in Iowa's classrooms.

There was discussion regarding the cultural responsiveness of teachers and administrators to students, school districts' responsibility to hire diverse staff, and recruitment of diverse students into teacher preparation programs.

There was also discussion regarding NAEP, including accommodations that are permitted and not permitted, how it is determined who takes the NAEP examination, and the definition of proficient.

Discussion continued regarding the committee's recommendations and the State Board's priorities, the decline in reading scores, how work of this committee has inspired changes in the Johnston and Des Moines School Districts, whether there are any programs or measures that are in place for diversity and inclusion, the need to elevate this board priority, and cultural awareness.

Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest Reducing Gaps

David Tilly, Deputy Director, provided background to the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest Reducing Gaps presentation. He introduced REL Midwest representatives Jamella Conway-Turner and Jim Lindsay, who presented an overview of *Evidence-Supported Interventions Associated with Black Students' Education Outcomes: Findings from a Systematic Review of Research*. Copies of the report were distributed to State Board members.

A PowerPoint titled "Improving Educational Outcomes Among Black Students" was presented that addressed:

- Who is REL Midwest?
 - Regional Educational Laboratories
- What is the Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance (MAGRA)?
 - REL Midwest Research Alliances
- Findings from the Literature Review
 - Evidence-Supported Interventions Associated with Black Students' Educational Outcomes
 - Systemic Literature Review
 - Evidence-Supported Interventions
 - Literature Review Discussion
- How can we Connect Research to Practice?

There was discussion regarding the information presented and research findings. A video titled "Supporting Black Students' Excellence" was shown.

Outcomes, Impact, and Implications of the 2018 Legislative Session

Ryan Wise and Shan Seivert, Policy Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, highlighted Senate File 2415 – Education Appropriations bill. Specifically, they addressed:

- Statewide Student Assessment: \$2.7 million
- Work-Based Learning Clearinghouse: \$250,000
- Postsecondary Summer Classes: \$600,000
- Iowa Reading Research Center Early Literacy Blueprint: \$300,000
- Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund: \$500,000

The following education policy bills were also discussed:

- House File 2235: Statewide Student Assessment
- House File 2458: Future Ready Iowa
- Senate File 475: Education Omnibus
 - Division I : Online Education
 - Division V: Biliteracy Seal
 - Division VII: Financial Literacy
- Senate File 2113: Suicide Prevention, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Identification, and Toxic Stress Response Mitigation Training
- Senate File 2360: Dyslexia Task Force
- Senate File 2364: Emergency Operations Plan

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

Board members also discussed and reported out on major challenges, opportunities and implications for State Board priorities.

State Board of Education Priority Review – Breakout Conversations

State Board members broke into groups, along with Department staff, to discuss the current priorities. Specifically, they discussed whether the priority should remain and, if so, what adjustments would be needed to the goals; what board engagement looks like; and what success looks like.

The priorities are:

- Eliminating Early Literacy Achievement Gaps
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation
- Implementing Iowa's Academic Standards
- Transitioning to New Assessments
- Increasing Accessibility of Career and Technical Education, Work-Based Learning, and Community College Credit and Preparing Productive Citizens for Rewarding Careers
- Creating a Safe and Rich Learning Environment
- Competency-Based Education (not a current priority)

Work groups reported out on recommended changes to the priorities and goals.

Brooke Axiotis adjourned the retreat at 5 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

It was moved by Angela English and seconded by Mike Knedler that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

Ryan Wise acknowledged Rob Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College, who provided comments.

Wise reported on the following statewide summer learning opportunities:

- Future Ready Learning
- Special Education Symposium
- Our Kids Conference
- Adult Education Conference
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Summer Institute

Wise will serve on an Education Commission for the States panel in Washington, D.C., that will feature Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation system. He also plans to attend a Campaign for Grade Level Reading meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he will participate on two panels that will focus on Iowa's early literacy system and Iowa's implementation of ESSA.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mike May and seconded by Mike Knedler to correct the May 10, 2018, minutes to reflect the William Penn University Practitioner Preparation Program: Moving Conditional Approval to Full Approval to read approval through 2022-2023. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Computer Science Standards Adoption

Erika Cook, Chief, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, introduced Rita Martens, who recently retired from the Department, and Ann Wiley, Johnston Community School District. Information was provided on the computer science standards.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Senate File 274 and Recommendations
- Purpose
- Review Team
- Process
- Computer Science Data
- Survey and Forums
- Q2 In what AEA area do you work or live?
- Q3 Which stakeholder group do you primarily represent as you complete this survey?
- Q4 If you are a teacher, what do you teach?
- Q5 Statewide recommended standards for computer science will lead to improved student learning for Iowa's students
- Q6 I believe statewide recommended standards for computer science will improve teaching and learning
- Review of Standards
- Computer Science Implementation
- Q253 Please indicate whether the following would be helpful to you in learning about the Iowa Computer Science Standards
- Q255 Guidance about how computer science standards should be effectively taught with standards in other content areas should be provided
- Final Recommendations
 - Adopt Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) standards as Iowa Computer Science Standards that will be recommended but not required for districts.
 - Include examples and clarifying statements with the CSTA K-12 standards.
 - Develop a guidance document that provides curriculum and activity examples, ideas for how to integrate computer science into other subject areas, as well as scope and sequence suggestions for grade-specific implementation.
 - Computer Science and 21st Century technology literacy standards require an accelerated review due to the rapid change of these skills and technologies.
- Change for Districts and Students
- Future Work

There was discussion regarding the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant application, the number of Iowa school districts that currently use the CSTA standards, the types of revisions other states made to the CSTA standards, and why the standards are voluntary rather than required.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Kimberly Wayne seconded that the State Board adopt the voluntary computer science standards from the Computer Science Standards Adoption Team.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Wise commented on the great work of the Computer Science Work Team, and indicated that having these standards in place is a new foundational skill for Iowa's students.

Diagonal Community School District and Orient-Macksburg Community School District Site Visit Reports

Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, provided background information. As part of the Department's oversight through Differentiated Accountability, it reviews district program and financial information routinely to determine if any districts would benefit from an on-site visit to engage in deeper inquiry about the district's compliance with state and federal education laws.

Diagonal Community School District (CSD) received a targeted site visit on May 17, 2018, because noncompliance issues were identified during the Universal Desk Audits submitted by the district in December 2016 and December 2017, and during an equity site visit to the district in fall 2017. Many of the noncompliance issues identified in 2016-2017 were also issues in 2017-2018. Information was provided to the State Board listing all noncompliance issues known prior to the visit and additional items discovered during the on-site visit.

The Department's site visit team issued a follow-up letter to Diagonal CSD notifying the district of the additional citations and the Department's intent to continue to follow-up with the district regularly. Department staff will also conduct a review of special education programming for students at Diagonal CSD, beginning with a review of Individualized Education Programs (IEP) for all students in the district. Diagonal CSD is required to enter into a Voluntary Compliance Plan (VCP) with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) because of the findings of noncompliance related to equity.

There was discussion regarding offer and teach requirements, the number of high school students enrolled in the district, how the local school board was informed of these issues, what kind of future action may be needed by the State Board, types of sharing and partnerships the district has with the Mt. Ayr CSD, and deadlines for the issues to be resolved.

Orient-Macksburg CSD received a targeted site visit on May 31, 2018, because noncompliance issues were identified during the Universal Desk Audits submitted by the district in December 2016 and December 2017. Many of the issues identified in 2016-2017 were also issues in 2017-2018. Information was provided to the State Board listing all noncompliance issues known prior to the visit and additional items discovered during the on-site visit.

The Department's site visit team issued a follow-up letter to Orient-Macksburg CSD notifying the district of additional citations and the Department's availability to provide support for the district.

There was discussion regarding the type of assistance that will be provided to the district to help sustain correction, the negative impact these citations may have on student learning, and whether there is a correlation between the compliance issues and small rural school districts.

Karleen Stephens, Superintendent, and Lorna Paxson, Diagonal CSD, shared comments and discussed the compliance issues in the district.

There was discussion regarding counseling services offered by the district and staff evaluations.

Norene Bunt, Superintendent, Orient-Macksburg CSD, shared comments and discussed the compliance issues in the district.

There were questions regarding enrollment and the number of graduates.

Williamson explained how various components of school programs are reviewed and what determines this information being brought before the State Board. She indicated that these districts were brought before the board because of noncompliance issues, equity noncompliance issues, and at-risk indicators for finance.

Developmental Education Annual Report

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, and Barbara Burrows, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, presented highlights of the Annual Report of Developmental Education in Iowa Community Colleges.

Iowa Code section 260C.1 identifies 12 services to be included in Iowa's community college mission, one of which is "developmental education for persons who are academically or personally underprepared to succeed in their program of study." Accordingly, each of Iowa's 15 public two-year institutions offer academic and student support services to address the needs of underprepared students.

The Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation reports on developmental education enrollment and student demographics in its Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges report, but has conducted more in-depth research on these students' demographics and course/program completion as compared to non-developmental education students in this new Developmental Education Annual Report. Specifically, the report presents an analysis of the 2016 cohort (full-time students enrolled at a community college in fall 2016) by comparing sub-cohorts of developmental vs. non-developmental students in regards to retention, persistence, course completion, degree completion, and transfer to continue their education. The report also analyzes developmental education students from cohorts back to 2013 to compare the same metrics as listed above and to identify any trends in the data. Lastly, the report presents best practices and initiatives being conducted at Iowa's

community colleges to improve student success and increase the number of graduates while reducing the time to degree.

This inaugural report includes a great deal of data, the likes of which will be processed and analyzed for each new fall cohort so to measure the success of initiatives designed to expedite the preparation of Iowa's students who are academically underprepared for college-level coursework.

Board Reports

Kimberly Wayne visited Hyatt Middle School in the Des Moines Independent Community School District.

Brooke Axiotis attended a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Leadership for Equity and Excellence National Cohort meeting.

Mary Ellen Miller attended the Future Ready Learning event.

Joshua Byrnes attended the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Conference.

Bettie Bolar participated in a NASBE Government Affairs Committee meeting.

Brooke Axiotis adjourned the business meeting at 10:05 a.m.

STATE BOARD RETREAT (continued)

Finalize State Board Priorities

Ryan Wise recapped the prior day's discussion regarding the State Board priorities and talked about the process to finalize the priorities. State Board members discussed the proposed priorities, goals, and action steps.

Meeting Schedule (Master Calendar, Dates, and Locations)

State Board members reviewed the proposed 2019 meeting dates. There was discussion regarding an offsite meeting location and meeting with legislators and the governor.

The master calendar was also reviewed and will be updated.

Closing Remarks

Brooke Axiotis and Ryan Wise provided closing remarks.

Brooke Axiotis adjourned the retreat at 11 a.m.

Brooke Axiotis
President

Ryan M. Wise
Director