



**Minutes
State Board of Education
June 12-13, 2019**

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
Wayne County

Kimberly Wayne
Des Moines

Fez Zafar
Student Member
Clive

Ryan M. Wise
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education retreat/meeting was held on Wednesday, June 12, and Thursday, June 13, 2019, 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, Matt Coulter, Shan Seivert, Nicole Proesch, Amy Williamson, Kimberly Villotti, Jennifer Adkins, Erika Cook, Pam Spangler, Holly Barnes, Janet Boyd, Eric St Clair, Staci Hupp, Eric Heitz, Larry Bice, Kris Kilibarda, Thomas Mayes, Jay Pennington, Isbelia Arzola, Matt Ludwig, Linda Rosenbury, Pradeep Kotamraju, and Jody Crane. Others in attendance were Sandy Schmitz; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus Staff; Karleen Stephens and Lorna Paxson, Diagonal Community School District; David King; Timothy Grieves; Thomas Downs; Bill Decker, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Mark Grey, University of Northern Iowa; Catherine Welch and Stephen Dunbar, Iowa Testing Programs/University of Iowa; Petra Lange, C.O.R.E. for Advancement (Community of Racial Equity); and Erin Murphy, Lee Enterprises.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Joshua Byrnes made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Director's Report

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), recognized Fez Zafar for his work in organizing the American Iftar Dinner. He also referenced a book titled *In Search of Deeper Learning: The Quest to Remake the American High School* by Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine.

Wise shared information regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Summer Institute.

Wise reported on a conference he attended at Harvard University where he presented about work in Iowa around ESSA. Iowa was one of two states featured at this conference for work on the use of data and how it informs the ESSA plan and local school improvement efforts.

Wise indicated that he also attended a conference in Washington, D.C. where he spoke about the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system and Iowa's work in investing in an instructional rubric.

Wise shared that a statewide conference on the TLC system will be held on July 16.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Rules: Chapter 25 – Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; GAP Tuition Assistance Program (Notice)

Nicole Proesch, Administrative Rules Coordinator, and Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, presented proposed amendments to 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 25, which reflect changes in 2019 Iowa Acts, chapter 135. The GAP tuition assistance program provides need-based tuition assistance to eligible applicants enrolled in approved non-credit training programs. These amendments allow community colleges to be more responsive to the needs of applicants and surrounding communities. Item 1 modifies one eligibility criteria, reducing the number of months, from six to three, for which an applicant is required to provide evidence of family income and adding a life-changing event as a qualifying eligibility factor. Item 2 provides the community college discretion to approve an eligible applicant for funding in more than one eligible program. Item 3 provides greater flexibility in the assessment used to evaluate the skills and competencies of individuals applying for assistance. Item 4 provides explicit authority for the Department, in consultation with the community colleges, to redistribute available funds to ensure efficient operation of the GAP tuition assistance program, targeting regions with greater demand for services.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded that the State Board notice changes to Chapter 25.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Diagonal Community School District Compliance Update

Amy Williamson, Chief, and Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, presented an update on the Diagonal Community School District. The Department conducted a 2017 equity visit, a 2018 universal desk audit, and a targeted site visit on May 17, 2018, at Diagonal Community School District to determine compliance with state and federal education law. The district was subsequently provided with numerous

citations and corrective actions, including several regarding accessibility of the school grounds.

Since the 2017-2018 school year, the Department has completed the 2019 universal desk audit and received a request to change the preschool program standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS). The district was visited on April 30, 2019, by an accreditation team and an early childhood team.

Heitz described the contents of a document titled “Diagonal Community School District Corrective Action Status as of May 22, 2019.”

There was discussion about whether anything has changed since the visit occurred, the IQPPS requirements that were not met, how the deadlines were determined, consequence of missing deadlines, whether conditional accreditation was an option, whether changing from the NAEYC standards to the IQPPS is stretching the timeline, the practicality of the deadlines being met, teacher and administrator evaluation concerns, the counseling plan, whether the noncompliance issues could be achieved by the next school year, responsibility of the area education agency, and what would happen if the offer and teach requirement is not met.

Williamson outlined the State Board’s options.

Karleen Stephens, Superintendent, and Lorna Paxson, Principal, Diagonal Community School District, responded to concerns of the State Board. Photos of building improvements being made in the district were shared. Williamson spoke to the issue of noncompliance of offer and teach in small school districts and Diagonal’s situation in this area. District representatives assured the State Board that the equity issues will be resolved and that they are confident it will meet the offer and teach requirement.

There was additional discussion regarding the construction bid and completion date, the outdoor play areas, and how it will be known that the equity issues are being addressed.

Williamson described what a Phase II visit would involve and the timeline.

There was a question about whether school districts that are involved in a Phase II visit continue working on current citations or wait until the visit is completed.

Motion: Kimberly Wayne made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the Diagonal Community School District report to the State Board on September 12, 2019, regarding the corrective actions detailed in the report.

There was extensive discussion regarding the motion. Specifically, whether the offer and teach requirement can be met by August 1 and the district’s response and work that needs to occur to address the citations.

Mike May called the question.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken: Aye: Mike Knedler, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Joshua Byrnes, Angela English, and Mike May. The motion failed.

Motion: Mike Bearden made a motion and Mike May seconded that the Department proceed with a Phase II visit conducted at the agreed date by the Department and the school district.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken: Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Joshua Byrnes, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, and Mary Ellen Miller. Nay: Kimberly Wayne. The motion passed.

An interim report will be provided to the State Board regarding the status of citations.

Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Update

Amy Williamson introduced the expert mentors that the Department has engaged with to work with Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (MBAEA). The expert mentors shared additional information about themselves and talked about their objective in working with MBAEA. The expert mentors and areas of expertise are:

- Thomas Downs (boardsmanship and board relations)
- Timothy Grieves (leadership)
- David King (finance)

There was discussion regarding the 5Cast software, the importance of transparency, how the process will work, and the process for reporting progress.

Perkins Transition Plan

Pradeep Kotamraju, Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, announced that he has accepted a position as the Director of Career and College Transitions with the Department of Education in Sacramento, California.

Kotamraju reported that the Department completed and submitted the required transition plan under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act for the 21st Century (i.e., Perkins V). Focus now shifts toward the state planning process through which Iowa will finalize a four-year plan. An advisory council will be convened to provide input and feedback at key stages of plan development. Iowa is in a strong position due to the work over the past four years of implementing House File 2392. The final plan will align state and federal career and technical education (CTE) policies to ensure an efficient and effective delivery system so that all students have consistent and equitable access to high-quality CTE programs.

Practitioner Preparation Programs - One-Year Follow-Up Report

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, and Kris Kilibarda, Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, presented the practitioner preparation programs one-year follow-up report. During the 2018-2019 academic year, Department consultants conducted follow-up reviews on three programs that received full approval from the State Board in 2017-2018: Coe College, Upper Iowa University, and William Penn University.

Bice and Kilibarda reported on the compliance concerns, resolution of the concerns, and follow-up review findings for the three programs.

There was discussion regarding concerns under the faculty standard, leadership and accountability, and distance learning.

Davenport Community School District Accreditation

Amy Williamson provided an update on the Davenport Community School District, which was placed on conditional accreditation at the May 2019 State Board meeting. Members of the State Board and the Davenport Community School District administrative team met to negotiate goals and benchmark dates by which portions of their corrective actions will be completed.

Williamson distributed and discussed a document titled "Phase II Visit Noncompliance Citations and Required Corrective Actions - June 11, 2019," which included the negotiated timelines, as well as the original timelines that were not negotiable.

There were questions regarding negotiated terms for the superintendent position, how it will be known that the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is working, timeline of PBIS implementation, whether the PBIS training will complement work that will be occurring at MBAEA, recommendations for professional learning, and how it will be known that progress is being made.

TJ Schneckloth, Interim Superintendent, and Bill Schneden, Associate Superintendent, Davenport Community School District, spoke about the negotiation process and responded to questions and concerns that were presented by State Board members. Specifically, they addressed PBIS, the D-SAMI (District Self-Assessment of Multi-Tiered System of Supports) Implementation process, a newly created position in the district to address parent communication and outreach, creation of a district-wide special education delivery plan, board engagement, and board turnover.

Positive comments were shared regarding the process and Schneckloth's leadership.

Williamson reported that the Individualized Education Program (IEP) reviews have been completed, and delivery of compensatory education is occurring.

There was a comment regarding the board's role and encouragement for board development.

Motion: Angela English made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that the State Board accept the amendments to the Davenport Community School District's action plan as presented.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS

Mary Ellen Miller reported that she provided a board development session at the Wayne Community School District board meeting.

Fez Zafar shared information regarding the American Iftar Dinner that he organized. He also announced that he has been elected student body president at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines.

Angela English commented on the negotiation process that occurred with Davenport Community School District.

Brooke Axiotis plans to attend a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting.

Joshua Byrnes spoke about his involvement in applying for a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant that would bring connectivity to rural parts of Mitchell County.

Mike May indicated that he visited several school districts and spoke about the Iowa assessments and athletics.

Bettie Bolar reported on a NASBE Early Childhood Task Force meeting that she attended and the need for better understanding around early childhood. She also commented on the strength of the Department's Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation.

Kimberly Wayne shared information regarding her involvement with community organizations and the opportunity to link corporate America, K-12 educators, higher education, and Drake University STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives. She also attended a Des Moines Independent Community School District board meeting. She plans to attend a NASBE Leading for Equity and Excellence Program meeting.

Angela English made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Brooke Axiotis adjourned the business meeting at 4:15 p.m.

STATE BOARD RETREAT

Goals of the Retreat/Introductory Comments

Brooke Axiotis provided opening comments.

Review State Board Priorities and Goals

Ryan Wise directed State Board members to break into work groups, select one of the following three 2019 priorities (Eliminating Achievement Gaps, Implementing Iowa's Academic Standards, and Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation), and do the following:

- Review the goals, decide any adjustments, and bring them back to the whole board.
- Determine what is needed in the year ahead to make progress on those goals (e.g., work sessions, professional learning opportunities, or action items).

The retreat adjourned for the day at 5 p.m.

Mark Grey, Professor of Anthropology, University of Northern Iowa

Ryan Wise introduced Mark Grey who is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Northern Iowa. Grey shared information about his work experience and talked about demographic changes in Iowa and the implications for Iowa's education system.

Grey presented a PowerPoint titled "The New Iowa: An Overview." There was discussion regarding the information presented.

Iowa Testing Programs

Ryan Wise introduced Stephen Dunbar and Catherine Welch from the University of Iowa. Comments were shared regarding the partnership between the Department and Iowa Testing Programs to ensure the effective implementation of the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). The first administration of the new ISASP was reviewed, and the role of the State Board in setting performance descriptors was discussed.

A PowerPoint titled "Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress" was presented that addressed:

- Background
 - House File 2235 Requirements
 - Partnership
- Performance Level Descriptors
 - Three-stage Process
 - Interpretation of Results on ISASP
 - Uses of Performance Level Descriptors
 - ISASP General Performance Level Descriptors
 - Mathematics – Grade 8
 - Reading – Grade 8
 - Writing – Grade 8
 - Language – Grade 8
- Standard Setting Study
 - Standard Setting Method
 - Schedule
 - Meeting Participants
- Presentation of Results to State Board September 2019

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

Meeting Schedule (Master Calendar, 2020 Meeting Dates, and Locations)

State Board members reviewed the proposed 2020 meeting dates. There was discussion regarding an offsite meeting location. The master calendar was also discussed.

Board Discussion and Planning for Year Ahead

Workgroups reported out on the following priorities that were discussed the previous day:

- Eliminating Achievement Gaps
- Implementing Iowa's Academic Standards
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

State Board members broke into workgroups and selected one of the remaining three 2019 priorities (Increasing Accessibility of Career and Technical Education, Work-based Learning, and Community College Credit; Supporting Future Ready Iowa; and Creating a Safe, Healthy, and Welcoming Learning Environment) and were instructed to do the following:

- Review the goals, decide any adjustments, and bring them back to the whole board.
- Determine what is needed in the year ahead to make progress on those goals (e.g., work sessions, professional learning opportunities, or action items).

The workgroups reported out on the remaining priorities.

Closing Remarks

Brooke Axiotis provided closing comments and talked about the equity and legislative committees.

The retreat adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Brooke Axiotis
President

Ryan M. Wise
Director