



**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**January 23, 2020**

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 meeting was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the State Capitol and Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Joshua Byrnes, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Kimberly Wayne, and Mike May (via Zoom). Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ryan Wise, David Tilly, Jeremy Varner, Matthew Coulter, Shan Seivert, Staci Hupp, Amy Williamson, Kris Kilibarda, Thomas Mayes, Larry Bice, Eric Heitz, David Canaday, Tom Cooley, Heather Doe, Chris Russell, Isbelia Arzolza, Kimberly Villotti, Mary Breyfogle, Jennifer Adkins, Betsy Lin, Tom Rendon, Holly Barnes, Pam Spangler, Marietta Rives, Jay Pennington, Brad Niebling, Barbara Ohlund, Kassandra Cline, Bill Roederer, Eric St Clair, and Jody Crane. Others in attendance were Tim Hood, Sidney, South Page, and East Mills Community School Districts; Rebecca Bates, Region 9 Comprehensive Center; Alan Greiner, Iowa High School Music Association; Lisa Bartusek, Iowa Association of School Boards, Joan Kindle and Cheryl Welsch, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges; Kelley Randolph and Jimmie Randolph, Hamburg; Robert Kobylski, Davenport Community School District; Michael Guanci, Legislative Services Agency; David King; Joe Adam, Shane Williams, Kim Hofmann, Bill Decker, Jennifer Coombes, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Tom Downs; Tom Lane; Sandy Schmitz; Representative Cindy Winckler; Mike Wells, Hamburg and Essex Community School Districts; Kevin DeChant, Hamburg Community School District (Board); Representative Cecil Dolecheck; George Anderson, Iowa Teacher of the Year; Karleen Stephens and Lorna Paxson, Diagonal Community School District; and Amy Kelsey, Diagonal Community School District (Board).

**STATE BOARD MEET-AND GREET WITH LEGISLATORS**

A meet-and-greet was held with the House and Senate Education Committees and the House and Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittees to discuss the State Board's priorities and legislative issues.

## **STATE BOARD WORK SESSION – EARLY EDUCATION**

Kimberly Villotti, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, shared introductory comments. The following members of the Department of Education (Department) early childhood team introduced themselves and talked about their primary roles. Betsy Lin, Tom Rendon, Jennifer Adkins, and Mary Breyfogle. This presentation was a continuation from the November State Board meeting work session regarding early education.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Demographics
- Coaching
- Equity
- Future Opportunities

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

## **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

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

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

Tim Hood, shared Superintendent for the Sidney, South Page, and East Mills Community School Districts (CSDs), requested to provide public comment prior to the High School Program at Hamburg Community School District agenda item. The State Board granted his request.

### **Director's Report**

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education, announced that Nicole Proesch accepted a position with the Iowa Hospital Association.

Wise spoke about the timeline when he would be leaving his position as the director of the Department and how much he has enjoyed his work with the board.

Wise highlighted upcoming presentations to the board. He also provided an update on work that has been occurring around career and technical education and Perkins planning efforts.

### **Legislative Update**

Ryan Wise directed State Board members to review the weekly legislative updates provided by Shan Seivert, Policy Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications. Mental health is a

big issue this legislative session. For the third year in a row, the Department hosted a House Education Committee meeting on January 28, which was a positive experience. Several issues were discussed; however, the main topic of discussion was mental health and classroom-level issues.

Wise highlighted legislation and work around computer science.

Wise spoke about the Governor's plan to launch a school safety bureau. This bureau will be located in the Iowa Department of Public Safety, but in partnership and cooperation with the Department. Two million dollars has been allocated in the Governor's proposed budget to support this work.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Thomas Mayes, Attorney II, Division of Learning and Results, provided clarification on the effective date for 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 98 rules – Financial Management of Categorical Funding.

The motion carried unanimously.

Brooke Axiotis turned the gavel over to Mike Bearden.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **2019 Annual Condition of Education Report**

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, presented the 2019 Annual Condition of Education Report (30<sup>th</sup> edition). This report has been redesigned and provides information about enrollment, staff, K-12 programs, school finance and student performance.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Student and Schools Update
  - Enrollment Trend
  - Student Demographics – Public
  - Shift in District Size
- Educator, Curriculum and Outcome Measures
  - Teacher Salary Trend
  - National and Midwest Salary Ranking
  - Number of Teachers Trend
  - Age and Experience
  - Curriculum
  - Advanced Placement Enrollment
  - Concurrent Enrollment
  - ACT
  - Career and Academic Planning
  - Finance Indicators

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

## **Iowa School Performance Profiles**

Jay Pennington presented information regarding the Iowa School Performance Profiles (ISPP), which was created to meet a federal requirement under the Every Student Succeeds Act and a state requirement to develop an attendance center ranking system.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- ISPP Timeline
- ISPP 3.0 Changes
- ISPP 3.0 Rating Scale
- Growth Transition
- Postsecondary Readiness Index
- Conditions for Learning
- Partial Academic Year
- ISPP 3.0 Weightings
- New Reporting Measures
- Progress on State Goals
- New Functionality
- Sample Search
- Site Resources
- Trend Examples
- Achievement Gap

Ryan Wise shared comments and complimented Department staff for their work in this area. Information on the Iowa School Performance Profiles was distributed. There was discussion regarding the information presented.

## **Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges Report, Academic Year 2019**

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, and Heather Doe, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges, shared highlights of the Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges Report, Academic Year 2019. Iowa's 15 community colleges serve over 300,000 credit and noncredit students. This report provides data on programs, enrollment awards, costs, financial aid, human resources and finances. This data was reported by the division's Management Information System or was gathered from other resources identified in the body of the report.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Condition Report 2019
- Interactive Tools
- Story Highlights
- New Information
- Credit Enrollment
- Online Enrollment
- Joint Enrollment
- Developmental Education
- Demographics
- Student Success
- Non-credit Enrollment
- Student Awards
- Adult Education and Literacy
- Skilled Worker and Job Creation Funds
- Tuition and Fees
- Financial

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

## **Eastern Iowa Community Colleges Comprehensive Accreditation Report – Fiscal Year 2020**

Chris Russell, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges, introduced Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC) representatives Joan Kindle, Chief Academic Officer, and Cheryl Welch, Dean of Curriculum and Accreditation.

The Eastern Iowa Community Colleges Comprehensive Accreditation Report – Fiscal Year 2020 was presented. This report is an evaluation of EICC for continued state accreditation as an associate degree-granting institution. The Department conducted the on-site portion of the evaluation on October 30-31, 2019. This report reflects the review team's observations and determinations made during EICC's comprehensive desk and site reviews.

As mandated by Iowa Code sections 260C.47, the accreditation team, including two external reviewers, assessed EICC's compliance with eight Iowa State Accreditation Standards via a structured process of document review and on-site interviews. The team also reviewed the most recent Higher Learning Commission (HLC) regional accreditation report to ensure that any findings have been addressed. Iowa's process has been designed not to duplicate the HLC accreditation process.

Russell reviewed the findings for the following state accreditation standards:

- Faculty Qualifications
- Faculty Teaching Load
- Special Needs
- Career and Technical Education Evaluations and Timelines
- Strategic Planning
- Physical Plant and Facilities
- Quality Faculty Plan
- Senior Year Plus Programs

Russell highlighted statistical information for EICC and the institution's special topic – work-based learning program strategies. Russell stated that the Department recommends the State Board grant approval to EICC.

There was discussion regarding EICC's relationship with the Davenport CSD, the process to follow-up on recommendations, diversity, minority retention rates and distinguished faculty distinction.

EICC representatives shared comments and presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

- Being "THE Community's College" is more than a marketing slogan. WE truly serve the community. This is why we wake up and come to work. It is the opportunity to every day deliver on our mission and provide high quality education and training to our community.
- Strategic Priorities and Metrics
- Regional Planning and Partnerships
- Student Centered Approach (multiple measures, college readiness and advising)
- Faculty Development and Classroom Engagement
- Outcomes Assessment

EICC representatives distributed handouts titled:

- Eastern Iowa Community Colleges Strategic Priorities 2016-2020
- Eastern Iowa Community Colleges Milestone Measures
- What it means to be The Community's College

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board grant continued accreditation for Eastern Iowa Community Colleges. A state interim visit will be conducted in fiscal year 2024.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Wise commented on the institution's business partnerships.

### **Introduction – 2020 Iowa Teacher of the Year**

Isbelia Arzola, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, introduced and shared information about the 2020 Iowa Teacher of the Year, George Anderson. Anderson spoke about why he became a teacher, educators who inspired him, and his goals as Iowa's Teacher of the Year.

### **Public Comment (continued)**

Tim Hood provided public comment relating to the high school program at Hamburg Community School District. He referenced a document that was provided to the board titled "Response to Hamburg Request."

### **High School Program at Hamburg Community School District**

Amy Williamson, Chief, and Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, explained the Hamburg CSD was coming before the State Board to ask for reinstatement of their high school. Hamburg CSD operated as an independent PK-12 district until 2011. In 2011, Hamburg entered into a whole grade sharing agreement with Farragut CSD. Hamburg high school students attended Farragut. Farragut sent middle school students to Hamburg. In 2016, Hamburg began to tuition out all students in grades 9-12 to Sidney CSD due to the dissolution of Farragut.

In follow-up to the March 2019 State Board meeting, Heitz shared certified enrollment information for Hamburg.

There was discussion regarding options for the high school students. Williamson explained why the Farragut CSD was dissolved.

Discussion continued about whether Hamburg has had any compliance issues with offer-and-teach since the dissolution of Farragut.

Mike Wells, shared Superintendent, Hamburg and Essex CSDs, introduced Kevin DeChant, Board President, Hamburg CSD. Wells provided comments relating to rural schools in Iowa, how the district lost students as a result of a flood, and the district's positive financial position.

He explained where Hamburg high school students currently attend school and how those students are funded. He also explained that when Farragut and Hamburg separated and Farragut dissolved, Hamburg could have brought the high school back; however, the building was not handicapped accessible. The building they are currently in does not have the career and technical education (CTE) programs. The board elected not to bring it back until they had an adequate facility. Currently, the building meets the CTE requirements.

Wells further explained funding and transportation for Hamburg students and conversations with the Sidney CSD to consolidate or whole grade share. He stated the importance for Hamburg to have a voice in the education of its high school students, and that this decision should be a local decision. Wells stated that poverty stricken students are protected by the Constitution. He stated that it is an undue burden on students to transport them to a district where they have no voice. In addition, the State Board has an opportunity to develop a new model of education for small schools in Iowa. He talked about the effects on communities that don't have schools.

There was discussion regarding the district's certified enrollment, and why Sidney does not want to consolidate or whole grade share with Hamburg.

Wells reviewed in detail information contained in a document that was distributed at the meeting titled "Hamburg Community School District's Request: Hamburg High School."

Discussion continued regarding student activity fund usage, whether Hamburg's proposal meets the state's requirements for a high school, what would happen to Hamburg's proposal if the regional academies do not come to fruition, whether the career academies are different than what students would receive at Sidney, whether Hamburg's proposed curriculum meets the basic requirements for college admission, what happens if Hamburg can't fulfill the offer-and-teach requirement, what would happen if this decision was delayed until March, projected enrollment, where the high school would be housed, student transportation costs, letter of intent from Iowa Western Community College, sustainability of the plan, whether there will be enough students to take the classes, whether students who attend Sidney are taking more difficult classes (such as chemistry and physics), and the fact there is a tuition agreement between Hamburg and Sidney and not a sharing agreement.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board grant Hamburg approval to have a high school.

Brooke Axiotis spoke about the board's concerns and district's struggles. She stated that the district is thinking outside the box and has done a great job putting something together that might work well in a small district.

Amy Williamson explained the State Board's authority, stating that if the board approves to reinstate a high school, the accreditation becomes conditional.

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

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded to convene the State Board in February to reconsider the decision on the Hamburg request to open a high school.

A recommendation from the Department was requested. Amy Williamson indicated that a feasibility study will be prepared and shared with the board and the district. Ryan Wise clarified that this is a board action and not a Department action. Wells invited board members to visit Hamburg. Details of the February meeting were discussed.

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

Brooke Axiotis turned the gavel over to Mike Bearden.

### **Davenport Community School District Compliance Update**

Amy Williamson introduced Robert Kobylski, Superintendent, Davenport CSD, and Tom Lane, expert coach. Williamson provided an update on the status of corrective action items 12, 13, 16 and 20.

Lane provided an update on the status of corrective action item 17. He complimented Lisa Bartusek, Executive Director, Iowa Association of School Boards, and her staff for work done with the Davenport CSD. Lane commented on the magnitude of the work that needs to be done in the district.

There was discussion regarding the timeline of comfort and sustainability, whether meaningful change is starting to happen, and why Davenport feels it has the ability/audacity to go before the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to ask for forgiveness of approximately \$9 million in overspending. The Board asked what happens if the district's request is denied.

Tom Cooley, Chief, Bureau of School Business Operations, reported that the SBRC received Davenport's corrective action plan and tabled the district's modified supplemental amount (MSA) request of \$13,403,000.77 until the January meeting. Membership of the SBRC and whether the district had the cash to support the request for forgiveness for exceeding its spending authority were discussed.

Williamson talked about the purpose of an on-site visit to Davenport, which is scheduled for February 24-28. The purpose of this visit is school improvement oriented and will also serve as a conditional accreditation check in. Williamson distributed and discussed two handouts titled "State Board of Education Authority: K-12 Accreditation" and "State Board of Education Authority: AEA Accreditation." A report of the visit will be provided to the State Board. Williamson indicated that indicators will be developed to show progression.

There was discussion regarding the 3-5 year timeline, the effects on the students, and the status of students with Individualized Education Programs.

Mike Bearden passed the gavel to Brooke Axiotis.

## **Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Accreditation Update**

Amy Williamson introduced expert coaches, Tom Downs, David King, and Tim Grieves. Williamson provided an update on the status of MBAEA corrective action items 2 and 6.

Grieves shared additional information relating to item 6. Specifically, he addressed the development of the Audit of Services for MBAEA.

Downs provided an update on progress the MBAEA board has made, and reported that he has observed the board engaged in effective board governance. There was discussion regarding the makeup, selection, and term of the board.

King and Grieves spoke about improvements the board has made by being engaged and how they are taking their responsibilities seriously.

King reported findings from MBAEA's audit report.

Williamson reviewed a document that outlines the State Board's authority over AEA's. In response to a question regarding the deadline for the issues to be resolved, she reported that is a State Board decision. The State Board's original direction to MBAEA was that they were to come in with a positive balance in two years, which would be at the end of fiscal year 2020. At the end of FY 2019, the agency is at approximately negative \$900,000. In addition, the State Board can order the Department to do additional work.

In response to another question regarding MBAEA's responsibility to the situation in Davenport, Williamson reported that the Department did not cite MBAEA for lack of oversight, because the special education director alerted the Department to an anomaly she was seeing and was trying to be a partner.

Bill Decker, MBAEA Chief Administrator, Joe Adam, MBAEA Board President, and Jennifer Coombes, MBAEA Business Manager, provided comments and responded to questions regarding the MBAEA auditor's report. Specifically, items discussed were the length of the process, progress being made, and board involvement.

There was discussion about whether MBAEA will need to use extended warrants to close the fiscal year, how the agency will assist Davenport, the minority ratio of leaders in MBAEA and Davenport, improvements the Davenport board has made, future use of Forecast 5, the value of the anticipatory warrants both short-term and long-term, how the primary focus needs to be about serving the students, and the need for the agency to meet with their local legislators.

## **Diagonal Community School District Compliance Update**

Amy Williamson and Eric Heitz provided an update on the Diagonal CSD Noncompliance Citations and Required Actions. Of the 60 citations, 29 are past due, 26 have been corrected, and five are not yet due.

As directed by the State Board, Heitz and Janet Boyd, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, visit Diagonal on a monthly basis to meet with their team and provide intensive assistance. Heitz reported on the assistance the Department has provided Diagonal. Issues discussed to date have been accessibility and Title I. Future dates have been scheduled to provide additional technical assistance.

Karleen Stephens, Superintendent, Diagonal Community School, provided comments regarding the progress being made in Diagonal. She introduced the following individuals: Representative Cecil Dolecheck; President Amy Kelsey, Diagonal CSD Board, and Principal Lorna Paxson, Diagonal CSD. Stephens invited State Board members to visit Diagonal and requested that they review Diagonal's Iowa School Performance Profile.

Stephens distributed and discussed a document titled "January 22, 2020, Diagonal Community School Board Update, Department of Education Corrective Actions."

There was discussion regarding the number of staff at Diagonal, the reason for the number of outstanding citations, class size, enrollment, conversations occurring regarding whole grade sharing, board engagement, timeline for noncompliance citations to be resolved, additional citations, offer-and-teach requirements, 28E agreements, length of time citations have existed, and the status of the citations relating to Title I.

## **School Budget Review Committee Update**

Tom Cooley reported on action taken at the December 19 SBRC meeting. There were regular, annual requests for supplementary weightings for concurrent enrollment and shared teachers, excess cost for English language learner programs, and MSAs for special education deficit. Due to delays in data availability, requests for MSA pertaining to open enrolled out students not on the previous year's count was moved to a special meeting that will be held in January.

The largest of the annual requests pertained to the special education deficit. For FY 2019, the approved requests were approximately \$142.9 million (for FY 2018, the total was \$125.8 million). Every other year, on odd numbered years, a recommendation can be considered regarding the state special education weighting plan. No change in the weightings was recommended, so the three weighting levels remain at .72, 1.21, and 2.74, respectively.

The committee received and supported a recommendation to the Department to approve a certificate of need (CON) for Mormon Trail CSD. By statute, a CON is needed in order for a district with certified enrollment of less than 250 for the district or less than 100 for the high school to utilize Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) dollars for new construction. The district intends to close its existing high school building (built in 1930) and

add classrooms at its current elementary site so that all grade levels will be served at one location.

South Hamilton ended the previous fiscal year (FY 2019) with a negative unspent balance and presented a corrective action plan. The SBRC approved the district's corrective action plan and request for MSA for fiscal year 2019-2020 in the amount of \$209,403.

Other actions by the SBRC included:

- Directed the Department to distribute funds generated by the sale of education license plates to eligible districts.
- Approved the corrective action plan for Green Hills AEA that filed a late fiscal report.
- Approved MSA for hazard abatement (asbestos) for five districts: Gladbrook-Reinbeck, Grinnell-Newburg, Osage, South Central Calhoun, and Woodbury Central.
- Tabled a request for MSA from Bettendorf CSD related to costs contributing to new construction of a school building. This will be revisited at the January meeting.
- Approved a transfer from the general fund to an enterprise fund for North Scott CSD for start-up costs for a new student construction program.

There was discussion regarding action taken on Davenport.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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Brooke Axiotis  
President

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Ryan M. Wise  
Director