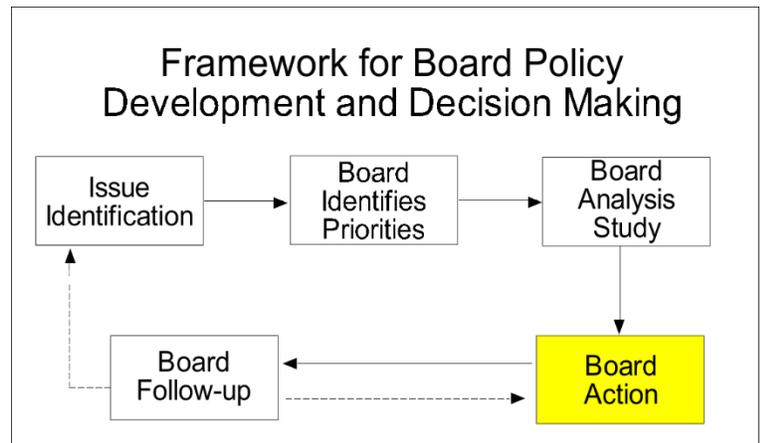


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

October 1, 2020



Agenda Item: Davenport Community School District Accreditation Update

State Board Priorities: All

State Board Role/Authority: Iowa Code section 256.11

Presenter(s): Amy J. Williamson
Bureau of School Improvement

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: The Department recommends that the State Board review and approve the attached plan appointing an interim superintendent for Davenport schools and providing for the appointment of an interim CFO.

Background: Davenport Community School District was placed on conditional accreditation at the May 2019 State Board meeting. Updates on the district's progress toward meeting all conditions of their accreditation will be provided at every board meeting until their corrective action plan is complete or the district is unaccredited.

The corrective action plan for 2020-2021 was revised and presented to State Board members and Davenport representatives on July 17. All parties agreed to the content and terms of the plan.

The State Board voted to allow Davenport to implement the corrective action plan for the 2020-21 school year with the additional condition that if the district fails to meet any single objective in the action plan, the State Board will appoint an expert to complete the action for the district at the district's expense.

Because Davenport CSD failed to meet every objective in the action plan agreed upon between the district and the State Board for their September report, the State Board imposed additional conditions under its authority to provide temporary oversight and operational authority to the director and the State Board in the following respect (Iowa Code section 256.11(11)(a)): the State Board voted to appoint a superintendent and a chief financial officer to complete the action plan for the district at the district's expense.

Davenport Community School District Interim Plan

October 1, 2020

People and Roles

- T.J. Schneckloth will serve as the interim superintendent for Davenport CSD and will report directly to the state board of education.
- Bill Decker, Chief Administrator at Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, and Shane Williams, Director of Educational Services, will provide mentoring, oversight, and support for Mr. Schneckloth and be physically present in the district multiple times per week. They will also coordinate communication and status updates with the Department of Education team weekly.
- The interim CFO will be determined jointly by Mr. Schneckloth, Mr. Decker, Mr. Williams, and Department staff no later than October 9, 2020.
- As interim superintendent reporting to the state board of education, Mr. Schneckloth will have all of the authority of a regular superintendent and will focus specifically on the corrective action plan.
 - The current superintendent does not lose his job as the result of state board action, but decision-making authority transfers to Mr. Schneckloth for the duration of this arrangement. The current superintendent may be assigned work to help complete the corrective actions or conduct other district business at the discretion of the interim superintendent.
- As interim CFO, the person chosen will have all of the typical authority and responsibility of the CFO, with a focus on the corrective actions related to finance and meeting the requirements of the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC).
 - The current CFO does not lose their job, but decision-making authority transfers to the interim CFO for the duration of this arrangement.
- The local Davenport school board remains a vital part of the corrective action process and overseeing the operations of the district. The local board will receive updates on the corrective actions at every board meeting and continue to operate.

Structure

- Mr. Schneckloth, Mr. Decker, and Mr. Williams will meet twice weekly with Bureau Chief Amy Williamson to plan for and check in on progress toward completion of the district's corrective action plan.
- The contract for the interim CFO will be held by MBAEA. The CFO will be compensated at a rate commensurate with the current CFO salary.
- MBAEA will be compensated for Leadership/Superintendency services at a rate commensurate with the current superintendent salary.
- The interim superintendent's salary will be commensurate with the current superintendent's salary, including benefits, prorated for the time he holds the position.

Timeline

- The initial timeline for this structure will begin upon state board enactment for a six month period.
- The state board will consider completing this work or extending the timeline at their March 2021 meeting, which is prior to the six-month expiration date of April 5, 2021.