



**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**October 1, 2020**

Brooke Axiotis  
President  
Des Moines

Bettie Bolar  
Vice President  
Marshalltown

Joshua Byrnes  
Osage

Brian J. Kane  
Dubuque

Michael L. Knedler  
Council Bluffs

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

John Robbins  
Iowa Falls

Georgia Van Gundy  
Waukee

Kimberly Wayne  
Des Moines

Hannah Groos  
Student Member  
Norwalk

Ann Lebo  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, October 1, 2020, in person at the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, ICN Room, 400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa, and via Zoom. State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Mike Knedler, Joshua Byrnes, Georgia Van Gundy, Mike May, John Robbins, Kimberly Wayne, and Hannah Groos. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ann Lebo, David Tilly, Shan Seivert, Amy Williamson, Thomas Mayes, David Canaday, Janice Evans, Mary Breyfogle, Denise Ragias, Jim Flansburg, Earl Whipple, Isbelia Arzola, Susan Walkup, Eric Heitz, Lisa Albers, Bill Roederer, Holly Barnes, Heather Doe, Kassandra Cline, Jim Donaghue, Rob Olsen, Janet Boyd, Carla Schimelfenig, Geri McMahan, Larry Bice, Stacie Stokes, Jeanette Thomas, Buffy Campbell, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Jordan Esbrook, Attorney General's Office; William Decker, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Robert Kobylski, TJ Schneckloth, Sandy Schmitz, Amy Clayton, Susan Downs, Jen Boyd, Jacey Rangel, Jake Klipsch, Krista Colberg, Brenda Thie, Sheri Schultz, Teresa Wessling, Sarah Brennan, Mary Correthers, Garet Egel, Dawn Kimmel, Bill Schneden, Lynette Ohlensehlen, Jami Weinzierl, Amy Clayton, Debra Stevenson, Lauren Hargrave, and Heather Harland, Davenport Community School District; Patrick Peacock; Lou Ann Gvist, Siobhan Schneider, Patti Schroeder, and Harry Heiligenthal, Iowa Association of School Boards; Catarina Bolton; Gina Hale; Michael Guster; Bridget Godes, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff; Anthony Watt; Tara Gray, KWQC; Kate Kinne; Kenneth Brooks; Ed Tibbetts, Quad City Times; Dan Gosa, Karen Kline-Jerome, and Allison Beck, Davenport Community School District Board; Daniel Van Sant, Disability Rights Iowa; Lora Vargason, Legislative Services Agency; Kristin Rozenboom, House Republican Caucus Staff; Athena Gilbraith; Jamie Walker-Sallis; Mary Jane Cobb, Iowa State Education Association; Andrea Flores; Darwin Danielson; Deb Chiodo; David Epley, House Democratic Caucus Staff; Anne Kiss; Ann McGlynn; Rebecca Bates, American Institutes for Research; Lori Janke; and Grant Gerlock.

## **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Iowa Department of Education Director Ann Lebo announced that all State Board meetings are recorded and will be posted to the Department's website going forward.

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

This meeting was conducted in electronic format, with remote access information provided in the notice of the meeting, as permitted by section nine of Governor Reynolds's proclamation of May 26, 2020.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

Catarina Bolton and Dan Gosa provided public comment regarding the Davenport Community School District (Davenport) interim superintendent recommendation.

Gina Hale and Lori Janke provided public comment regarding the Davenport interim superintendent and mentor recommendation.

Athena Gilbraith provided public comment regarding Davenport.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Davenport Community School District Accreditation Update**

Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, acknowledged comments expressed during the public comment period. She stated that Davenport students are put first in the deliberations occurring at the Department. She welcomed the opportunity to continue a dialogue with parents and Davenport community members as the Department and Davenport move through this process.

Williamson reviewed action taken at the September 25 State Board meeting where the board voted to place an interim superintendent and interim chief financial officer (CFO) in Davenport to fulfill the corrective action plan.

Williamson reviewed in detail a document titled "Davenport Community School District Interim Plan."

Director Lebo stated that Department staff met with Davenport and some of its board members to preview the interim plan.

There was discussion regarding the superintendent and mentor recommendations, option for Davenport to contract with additional experts to fulfill areas where there is lack of expertise (racial inequality/disproportionality), the need for public confidence and support of the process, the need for full support of the Davenport board, selection of the CFO, the Department's ability to affect change

with the parties involved, Schneckloth's past performance, the need for strong State Board oversight, whether other candidates were considered for the superintendent position, the need for student support and inclusion in discussions, and the communication plan.

**Motion:** Joshua Byrnes made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded that the State Board approve the Davenport Community School District Interim Plan appointing an interim superintendent for Davenport schools and providing for the appointment of an interim CFO.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Joshua Byrnes, Mike Knedler, Mike May, John Robbins, and Georgia Van Gundy. Nay: Kimberly Wayne. The motion carried.

Director Lebo reminded board members that they have the authority to adjust the interim plan.

There was a comment regarding the importance of plan implementation and commitment among leadership, staff and the board.

Mike Knedler made a motion and Kimberly Wayne seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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Brooke Axiotis  
President

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Ann Lebo  
Director