



**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**April 20, 2022**

Brooke Axiotis  
President  
Des Moines

Bettie Bolar  
Vice President  
Marshalltown

Rodney Bradley  
Denison

Brian J. Kane  
Dubuque

Michael L. Knedler  
Council Bluffs

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

Nathan Peterson  
Iowa City

John Robbins  
Iowa Falls

Georgia Van Gundy  
Waukee

Hannah Groos  
Student Member  
Norwalk

Ann Lebo  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education (State Board) meeting was held on April 20, 2022, via webinar.

State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Rod Bradley, Brian Kane, Nathan Peterson and Georgia Van Gundy.

Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members present were Ann Lebo, Shan Seivert, Thomas Mayes, Janell Brandhorst, Heather Doe, Eric St Clair, Kassandra Cline, Janet Boyd, Eric Heitz, Holly Barnes, Tom Deeter, Janice Evans, Pam Spangler, David Canaday and Carol McMains.

Also in attendance were: Cynthia McKnight, Choice Charter School; Mike Wells, Hamburg Charter High School; Grant Gerlock, Iowa Public Radio; and Mary Jane Cobb, Iowa State Education Association.

The meeting was conducted via Zoom (webinar), with remote access information provided in the notice of meeting. It is noted that it was impossible or impractical to conduct the meeting in person, as trying to coordinate the schedules of a volunteer board made it impossible or impractical to obtain a quorum of board members in the same place at the same time with short notice.

### **State Board Business Meeting**

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Motion:** Brian Kane made a motion and Georgia Van Gundy seconded to approve the agenda.

Axiotis made a statement regarding limiting the time of public comment based on the number of speakers.

### **Communication**

#### *Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

## **Choice Charter High School Contract**

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, explained the need for a special State Board meeting due to the requirement that charter school contracts be approved by the State Board within 30 days of charter approval. Going forward, charter school contract approvals and renewals will be part of regularly-scheduled State Board meetings.

Mayes provided background regarding the Choice Charter School contract.

Iowa Code 256E established a new charter school law, where both local school boards and founding groups may apply to the State Board for approval to establish and operate a charter school. Charter schools, under this law, are a part of the state's program of public education. The Choice Charter School follows the founding group-state board model. Iowa Administrative Rule chapter 19 states that in order to operate a charter school for the 2022-2023 school year, applications are due no later than February 1, 2022, and the Choice Charter School application was received prior to the deadline. The Department of Education staff scored the charter school application, completed an interview with the applicant, and attended a public forum with residents, all of which are required components of the application.

On March 24, 2022 the State Board approved the Choice Charter School application. Iowa Code 256E requires the State Board to approve the contract in 30 days.

There was discussion regarding the contract dates.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Rod Bradley seconded that the State Board approve the Choice Charter School contract.

**Vote:** The motion carried.

## **Hamburg Charter High School Contract**

Thomas Mayes provided background regarding the Hamburg Charter High School contract.

Iowa Code 256E established a new charter school law, where both local school boards and founding groups may apply to the State Board for approval to establish and operate a charter school. Charter schools, under this law, are a part of the state's program of public education. The Hamburg Charter High School follows the founding group-state board model. Iowa Administrative Rule chapter 19 states that in order to operate a charter school for the 2022-2023 school year, applications are due no later than February 1, 2022, and the Hamburg Charter High School application was received prior to the deadline. The Department of Education staff scored the charter school application, completed an interview with the applicant, and attended a public forum with residents, all of which are required components of the application.

On March 24, 2022 the State Board approved the Hamburg Charter High School application. Iowa Code 256E requires the State Board to approve the contract in 30 days.

**Motion:** Brian Kane made a motion and Rod Bradley seconded that the State Board approve the Hamburg Charter High School contract.

**Vote:** The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.



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John Robbins  
President



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Ann Lebo  
Director