



**Minutes
State Board of Education
August 1, 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 meeting was held on Thursday, August 1, 2019, in the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. 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, Matt Coulter, Nicole Proesch, Shan Seivert, Amy Williamson, David Canady, Bill Roederer, Brad Neibling, Barb Anderson, Kay Augustine, Janell Brandhorst, Jay Pennington, Connor Hood, Isbelia Arzola, Jim Flansburg, Eric Heitz, Pam Spangler, Holly Barnes, Christi Donald, Larry Bice, Staci Hupp, Tom Cooley, Matt Ludwig, Monte Burroughs, Max Christensen, and Jody Crane. Others in attendance were Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus Staff; Susie Meade, Winterset Community School District; Jay Hammond, Iowa State Education Association; Julie McKibben, College Community School District; Sandy Schmitz; Eric Neessen and D.T. Magee, Norwalk Community School District; Margaret Buckton, Urban Education Network; Jill White and Andrea Christopher, Cedar Falls Community School District; Jadie Boens, Heartland Area Education Agency; Nora Burroughs; Blake Lybbert, WOI; Kevin McHenry, College Board; Erin Jordan, Cedar Rapids Gazette; Ben Smith, Panorama Education; Barb Byrd; Robert Kobylski and TJ Schneckloth, Davenport Community School District; Julie DeSalvo, Davenport Community School District Board; Deborah Reed, Iowa Reading Research Center; Ed Starkenburg and Tim Van Soelen, Dordt University; Megan Valley, Quad City Times; Kathy Hanlon, Legislative Services Agency; Daniel Zeno, American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa; Catherine Welch and Steve Dunbar, Iowa Testing Programs; Tom Lane; Tom Downs; Dave King; Bill Decker, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Mark Jacobs, Reaching Higher Iowa; and Diana Whited.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

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

Axiotis amended the agenda to move the public comment portion of the meeting prior to the discussion of the 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapter 103 rules – Corporal Punishment Ban; Restraint; Physical Confinement and Detention, and to move the 281 IAC chapter 44 rules – School Buses off of the consent agenda to the regular agenda.

Mike May made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed.

COMMUNICATION

Director's Report

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), spoke about the transition to paperless State Board of Education (State Board) meetings.

Wise highlighted the Teacher Leadership and Compensation conference that was held on July 16. He also reported that statewide training has begun on the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching Iowa instructional framework.

Wise announced that on July 1 there was a soft launch for the Iowa Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning. There will be a full-scale launch at the beginning of the school year. Features of the clearinghouse were shared.

Wise encouraged State Board members to accompany him on his school visits.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bettie Bolar made a motion and Kimberly Wayne seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Rules: Chapter 44 Rules – School Buses (Adopt)

Nicole Proesch, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Tom Cooley, Chief, and Max Christensen, Executive Officer, Bureau of School Business Operations, presented the Chapter 44 rules. Chapter 44 outlines the construction standards for school buses used in Iowa. The amendments to Chapter 44 reflect changes to these standards as recommended by the National School Transportation Specification and Procedures Manual 2015, the Department's Chapter 44 Update Group, and/or requests from the field. A public hearing was held on June 25, two people attended the public hearing, and five comments were received. The following changes were made to the rules as a result of public comment:

- One commenter questioned why the rules did not include changes from House File 499 regarding allowing certain vans or pickups to be used to transport students to activities or home in the event of an emergency. This change was added to the new rules at 44.2(5).
- One commenter wanted clarification that the rules regarding seatbelts were for “new” buses only and that old buses would not be required to retrofit seatbelts. This clarification was added to the rules at 44.3(57)(b).
- One commenter requested that cameras on buses be able to hang down 1 and ½ inches. This change was made to the rules at 44.3(38)(i).

There was discussion regarding the camera change, how long it will take before all school buses will be equipped with seatbelts, how young children will manage securing and unsecuring seat releases, the federal standard on all seat belts, and whether electronic sensors will become available in school buses.

Motion: Angela English made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 44.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION (continued)

Public Comment

The following individuals provided public comment regarding the Chapter 103 rules:

- Margaret Buckton, Urban Education Network of Iowa
- Jay Hammond, Iowa State Education Association
- Susie Meade, Winterset Community School District
- Eric Neessen, Norwalk Community School District
- Daniel Zeno, American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA (continued)

Rules: Chapter 103 – Corporal Punishment Ban; Restraint; Physical Confinement and Detention (Adopt)

Nicole Proesch and David Tilly, Deputy Director, Division of Learning and Results, presented the Chapter 103 rules. The Department received an Amended Petition for rulemaking, which was submitted on September 18, 2018, and filed pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7 (2015). That petition seeks revisions to IAC chapter 281-103, the administrative rules on corporal punishment, physical restraint, and physical confinement and detention, commonly known as the Department’s “seclusion and restraint” rules. The Amended Petition was received after several meetings between the petitioners, other interested parties, and key Department staff regarding the content of the Original Petition. After reviewing the proposed rules, the Department recommended the rules be submitted to the State Board for Notice of Intended Action to amend the current rules to allow all interested parties an opportunity for public comment.

A public hearing was held on March 5, 2019. Eleven people attended the public hearing. Over 30 public comments were received. Several changes were made to the noticed rules to reflect the public comments received.

Tilly provided background information regarding the rules revision process, addressed the issues and compromises, and thanked everyone involved for their work on the rules.

Proesch described the rules review process and the State Board's options. Tilly indicated that if the State Board did not adopt the rules, the Department would conduct regional meetings to seek additional feedback.

There was discussion about whether the rules could be tabled until the September board meeting, membership of the Chapter 103 rules work group, whether the word "seclusion" was included in the rules in 2008 and whether that word could be replaced with "de-escalation," the length of time it takes for rules to become effective, who determines whether a situation is "serious," the stress on classroom teachers, how conducting regional meetings would give the perception that voices are being heard, and the consequences for a school district that uses seclusion rooms.

Motion: Mary Ellen Miller made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 103.

There was additional discussion regarding the need for cultural competency to be included in the training and what the rules will look like that will be brought back before the board.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. The motion failed on a unanimous vote.

Dordt University Practitioner Preparation Program Approval

Matt Ludwig, Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, introduced Ed Starkenburg and Tim Van Soelen, Dordt University. Dordt University provides teacher and administrator preparation programs on the Sioux Center campus.

Ludwig provided background information on the institution, which officially changed from a college to a university in May of 2019. Ludwig discussed the report findings, which included commendations/strengths, recommendations, and concerns for each of the Chapter 79 standards.

Dordt representatives responded to questions regarding what the institution did to improve their advisory board, how the institution attracts students of color, and how the faculty load has been adjusted.

Motion: Bettie Bolar made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board award full approval to the Dordt University practitioner preparation program through the next review scheduled for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning

Brad Niebling, Chief, Barb Anderson, Consultant, Kay Augustine, Consultant, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, provided an update on current efforts related to social-emotional learning (SEL) and mental health in Iowa's schools.

Niebling commented on the connection to the Chapter 103 rules and SEL, and the importance of preventing situations from occurring by providing effective instruction and support for all students around their social-emotional well-being and behavioral health.

There was discussion regarding the reasons why there has been an increase in social-emotional issues occurring in schools.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- State Board Priority and Goals – Creating a Safe, Healthy, and Welcoming Learning Environment
- What We Talked About Last Time
 - Conditions for Learning Survey
 - 2017-18: State Level Results 47.46 Composite – Percent of Students Responding Positively to All Items in the Construct
 - Statewide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
 - Continuous Improvement Framework
 - Children's Behavioral Health Board and System
- Update on Social-Emotional Learning
 - Social-Emotional Learning
 - The Demand for Social-Emotional Competencies
 - SEL Competencies
 - Relationship Skills/Responsible Decision-Making
- Next Steps for Social-Emotional Learning
 - Tentative Timeline

State Board members participated in an exercise by examining a social-emotional competency and learning targets and discussed the following question, "How has/does this competency apply to your real-life experiences?"

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

New Statewide Early Warning System and Multi-Tiered System of Supports

Amy Williamson, Chief, introduced Janell Brandhorst, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, and Ben Smith, Panorama Education. As part of the Department's implementation of Iowa's early literacy law (Iowa Code section 279.68), there is a new, statewide data system available to all districts, nonpublic schools, and area education agencies to support implementation of a MTSS system. Work will begin in K-3 literacy and expand to support preschool through 12th grade in literacy, math, and social-emotional and behavioral health.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- MTSS Data System: Supporting Key Frameworks in Iowa
- Supporting State Board of Education Goals
- About Panorama
- Panorama's Focus Areas
- Panorama Student Success/Iowa MTSS Data System
- Supporting Iowa Schools in 2019-20 and Beyond
- Panorama Student Success
- Platform Demo
- Training Schools and Districts Across Iowa
- Virtual Training Approach

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

Board Reports

Joshua Byrnes attended a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute.

Kimberly Wayne attended a NASBE Leading for Equity and Excellence Program. She plans to deliver a keynote speech at the Equity in Education Social Justice Conference hosted by the Department.

Bettie Bolar participated on a NASBE Early Childhood Education Workgroup conference call.

Brooke Axiotis attended a NASBE board meeting. She announced that Joshua Byrnes will serve on the NASBE Government Affairs Committee.

Ryan Wise attended the annual Council of Chief State School Officers summer meeting.

Mike May and Fez Zafar shared excitement for the work and their involvement on the State Board's equity committee.

Mary Ellen Miller plans to be part of a graduate student's survey.

Angela English commented on a Facebook post from Decoding Dyslexia.

Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress

Ryan Wise introduced Catherine Welch and Steve Dunbar, Iowa Testing Programs, The University of Iowa. The Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress was administered for the first time in 2019. An update on the standards-setting process was discussed.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Introduction to Standard Setting
- Describing Student Performance
- Implementing the Process
- Reviewing the Results

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

Davenport Community School District Accreditation Update

Amy Williamson introduced Tom Lane, who is the expert coach for the Davenport Community School District (CSD). He will be working with the board and administration on their conditional accreditation status. Lane provided information about his experience and work with Davenport CSD. His areas of focus with Davenport CSD will be working with the new superintendent, the board, and a district-wide communication plan.

Williamson introduced Robert Kobylski, who is the new Davenport CSD superintendent. Williamson and Tom Cooley will be meeting with Kobylski to discuss the path the district is on for their conditional accreditation. Kobylski shared information regarding his background, work with the Davenport CSD, and commitment to work hand-in-hand with the State Board.

Williamson announced that Sandy Schmitz will continue to serve as the implementator advisor. Williamson spoke about the corrective action items due to the Department by the end of August and will be reported to the State Board in September.

Davenport CSD board member, Julie DeSalvo, and Tom Lane responded to a question regarding the sale of the former Lincoln Elementary School property.

There was discussion regarding mentoring for Davenport CSD board members; whether the Davenport CSD board supports the corrective action plan; challenges for Davenport CSD board members to attend State Board meetings; Kobylski's plan for TJ Schneckloth; and whether the sale of Lincoln Elementary School was a moral, ethical, and legal decision and whether there is any recourse.

Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Accreditation Update

Amy Williamson introduced Dave King, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (AEA) expert mentor for finance. King distributed and reviewed a document titled "State Board Meeting August 1, 2019, MBAEA Corrective Action #5a," which outlines itemized budget cuts that will result in a positive general fund balance no later than state fiscal year 2020. King commented on the receptiveness of Bill Decker, Administrator, Mississippi Bend AEA, and his staff for King's data requests.

Decker provided details regarding staff reductions and shared additional budget information.

There was discussion regarding contract days for certified staff; how Mississippi Bend AEA utilizes warrants; school board interaction and fiduciary responsibilities; and how staff members are being heard in regard to morale, budget cuts, workload, and satisfying school district needs.

Iowa Reading Research Center Update

Ryan Wise introduced Deborah Reed, Director, Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC). Reed distributed a document titled "Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration," which is prepared annually for the Iowa Legislature.

She also distributed a document titled “Early Literacy Survey of Iowa Elementary Schools: Statewide Results,” which refers to a survey the IRRRC conducted last fall of elementary schools across Iowa as an update to the early literacy initiative.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Current State of Core Literacy Instruction
- Current State of Summer Reading Programs
- Summary of Current Projects
- Dyslexia Overview Launch
- Dyslexia Module User Profile
- Future Directions
- Middle School
- T-ReKS: Teacher Reading Knowledge System

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Update

Ryan Wise introduced David Mitchell, Administrator, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS), and explained how that division fits under the Department’s structure.

Mitchell presented information about IVRS’s two primary programs (Disability Determination Services and Vocational Rehabilitation), highlighted information contained in a document titled “Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services Overview,” and shared success stories. Mitchell acknowledged the support of the Department and school partners in the critical services provided in transition for students with disabilities.

There was discussion regarding vocational rehabilitation funding sources.

State Board Policy Development Priorities for 2019-2020 and Master Calendar

Ryan Wise presented the State Board Priorities for 2019-2020 and master calendar. There was discussion regarding having an off-site meeting in 2020, and board member’s reviewed and agreed to the draft priority assignments.

Motion: Joshua Byrnes made a motion and Kimberly Wayne seconded that the State Board approve the Policy Development Priorities for 2019-2020.

There was additional discussion regarding legislative priorities.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Brooke Axiotis adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Brooke Axiotis
President

Ryan M. Wise
Director