

D R A F T

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
December 13, 2007

The December meeting of the State Board of Education was held in the State Board Conference Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following Board members were present: Gene Vincent, Rosie Hussey (telephonic), Kameron Dodge, Charlie Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Brian Gentry, Wayne Kobberdahl, Mary Jean Montgomery, and Max Phillips. Director Judy Jeffrey and staff members Gail Sullivan, Kevin Fangman, Jeff Berger, Carol Greta, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Jim Addy, Janice Friedel, Del Hoover, Gary Schwartz, Deb Schroeder, Roger Stirler, Rita Martens, Roger Utman, Joyce Thomsen, Warren Weber and Jim Reese were also present. Others present were Robert Dunker, Western Iowa Tech Community College; Pat Kier, Chancellor, and Laurie Hanson, Director of Institution Effectiveness, Eastern Iowa Community College District; M. J. Dolan, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Soko Starobin, Mary Darrow and Jackie Baughman, Iowa State University; Dar Danielson, Radio Iowa and Meghan Hawkins, *Des Moines Register*. Lt. Governor Patty Judge; and representatives from Charles City, Knoxville, Southeast Polk and Waterloo Community School Districts, Breaking Barriers to Learning and Teaching Awards recipients.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

The "Breaking Barriers to Teaching and Learning Award" was created by the State Board of Education to recognize school districts that have been successful in reducing achievement gaps by improving instruction, curriculum and programs, and professional development opportunities for school staff. Charles City, Dubuque, Knoxville, Southeast Polk, and Waterloo community school districts received the award this year from Lt. Governor Patty Judge. These districts earned this year's award by making significant improvement among a subgroup of students without allowing any other subgroup of students to decline. This award provides an opportunity to recognize these districts that have dedicated considerable resources to focus on helping struggling students.

Following presentation of the awards, a reception was held in the Kennedy Conference Room at the Capitol.

State Board Business Meeting

Present Gene Vincent called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick to approve the December agenda as presented.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director Report

Judy Jeffrey, Director provided information on the following items:

- **Preschool Program Update:** 182 districts applied for the Preschool program grants and 64 districts received awards with approximately 4500 children being served by the program. Director Jeffrey reported that 43 of 64 of these programs were integrated programs (i.e. special education, Title I, etc.) and 88 of them have Department of Human Services licensed community partners. ICN training programs for preschool standards and 4 training segments for NAYSE standards will be held and all of the districts that received funds this year will be visited for review to see if the programs meet the prescribed implementation process. The Department will also provide technical assistance.
- **School District Sharing and Efficiency Study:** Ten facilitators employed by the Department of Education are working through the Area Education Agencies (AEAs) to brainstorm with local school districts, state government, community colleges, and AEAs, to think about how they might become more efficient in their operation and management, and to develop partnerships to accomplish that task. The findings will be submitted to the Department by February 12 and a legislative report will be reported by March 15 for the General Assembly.
- **National Study on Operating Hybrid School Buses:** Two hybrid electric school buses are being delivered to Nevada and Sigourney community school districts as part of a multi-state project to determine the feasibility of that type of transportation for school children. Jeffrey indicated that there are 19 pilot vehicles being distributed across the United States as part of a study of an

Advanced Energy Consortium from North Carolina. She noted that Iowa is pleased to be a part of the pilot program.

- Governor Culver is hosting a Workforce Summit on December 18 at the Polk County Convention Center. Director Judy Jeffrey said this Summit is comprised of the citizens of Iowa to discuss problems facing the Iowa workforce. The Governor is seeking strategies for how we prepare to have the proper skills, knowledge base, as well as the number of workforce we need available for the future of this state. Roundtable discussions will be held to gather this information. Jeffrey indicated that she is serving on a panel to provide a framework for the issue.
- Jeffrey noted that Lana Michelson received the Frank Vance Distinguished Leadership Award. Gail Sullivan was elected to the presidency of the National Council of State Boards of Education Executives and she will also serve on the National Association of State Boards of Education Board of Directors. Congratulations to these staff members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Mary Jean Montgomery requested that her State Board report on page 11 of the November minutes read as HDTV; corrected from HGTV as presented. With that correction, the minutes of the November 14, 2007, State Board of Education meeting were approved.

Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 56, "Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services," was approved for notice of intended action.

Appeal Decision

Legal Counsel, Carol Greta, discussed the proposed decision, *In re Hannah T.*, 25 D.o.E., App. Dec. 21. The only denials of requests for open enrollment that may be appealed to the State Board are those alleging "repeated acts of harassment of the student or serious health condition of the student that the resident district cannot adequately address." (Iowa Code section 282.18(5).)

Greta said the proposed decision examines the current six criteria, replacing them with four new criteria consistent with both section 282.18(5) and S.F. 61. It was felt that the actions and interactions of the

students involved did not rise to the level of harassment. Therefore, Greta recommended that the Board honor the decision of the local Woodbine Board of Education to deny the late-filed open enrollment request. She indicated that in the event of an appeal of the final decision, the State Board is represented in district court by the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

After some discussion by the Board, the following motion was made:

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Rosie Hussey to affirm the decision of the Woodbine Community School District Board of Education to deny this specific open enrollment request.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Chapter 36, Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition (Notice)

Carol Greta, Legal Counsel, reviewed the proposed amendments to the Chapter 36 rules. She indicated that in March, 2006, the statewide academic standard for secondary student participation in interscholastic athletics was increased by the Board from "pass four courses" to "pass all credit courses." The consequence for not meeting the standard was decreased from one full semester to 20 school days in the athletic activity in which the student was a bona fide competitor. In monitoring the implementation of the new rule, the Board received feedback that the "pass all" standard is accepted by a large majority of school officials, students, and students' families, but the consequence was of concern to many. In April, 2007, a subcommittee of the Board was formed to make recommendations to the Board as a whole. The amendments presented reflect those recommendations, as well as other amendments designed to make aspects of the rules more equitable.

Charlie Edwards and Mary Jean Montgomery expressed their concern that this was still not a high standard, but an acceptable one. President Vincent felt that school districts were requiring tougher rules and kids were learning at higher levels. Max Phillips commended the committee for their work and recommendation.

Motion: It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Charlie Edwards to approve the Chapter 36, "Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition" rules for notice of intended action.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Phase II Fiscal Review and Accreditation Visit Report

Director Judy Jeffrey outlined the Phase II authority of the State Board and Department of Education. A Phase II visit was conducted in the Russell Community School District pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.11, subsection 10 and House File 317. After reviewing the findings of the fiscal and accreditation reports from that visit, it was determined that evidence exists to indicate that the status of the Russell District accreditation is in jeopardy.

James Addy, Administrator, Division of School Support and Information, provided the fiscal review findings of Russell Community Schools. He provided information about the financial status and accounting practices of the District in the following areas:

- Negative Unspent Balance
- Financial Systems
- Improper Accounting for Expenditures
- Comparison to Other Small Districts

Kevin Fangman, Administrator, Division of PK-12 Education, shared information regarding the accreditation status gathered from the Phase II accreditation team on-site visit on October 22-26 and November 5, 2007. Fangman reviewed the following areas:

- Equity
- Facilities
- Education Program

Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator, Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services explained the definition of a Phase I and Phase II visit.

Rosie Hussey asked if each school district has an outside auditor with the report being filed with the Auditor of State. Administrator Jim Addy responded that each district does have an outside auditor.

Max Phillips questioned the level of participation the Russell Community School District Board of Directors had with the Phase II visit. Director Jeffrey noted that they were initially involved with the School Budget Review Committee discussions on the negative unspent balance findings and continued to be notified of each step of the Phase II visit process.

Charlie Edwards had concerns about the responsibility of reporting and responding to the corrective action procedures. Mary Jean Montgomery and Mr. Edwards also had questions about the salary table outlined in the report and indicated it was depressing that this problem had existed for an extended period of time. Edwards expressed a concern about the resources needed to conduct these visits. Director Jeffrey stated that technology is helping somewhat to reduce the costs for gathering data, but that extensive resources are needed to meet the requirements for Phase II visits.

Brian Gentry felt that school districts needed a “dashboard of indicators” to check the status of their district. He also suggested that this topic be a discussion item or a position statement included in the next State Board Strategic Plan.

Following considerable discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Charlie Edwards that after reviewing the findings of the fiscal and accreditation reports, the Director has determined that sufficient evidence exists that the accreditation status of the Russell Community School District is in jeopardy. The Director recommends that the State Board direct the Iowa Department of Education (DE) to continue the Phase II process. The next steps include meeting with the Russell Community School District’s Board of Directors to develop an action plan for meeting compliance pertaining to fiscal management and with Chapter 12 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Western Iowa Tech Community College Accreditation Report

Roger Utman, Bureau Chief, Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education, and Robert Dunker, President, Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC), provided information on the accreditation visit conducted in March, 2007.

The Iowa Department of Education accreditation team conducted the evaluation visit on March 26-28, 2007. The findings state that WITCC is following the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) model for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association (NCA). With AQIP, an institution demonstrates it meets accreditation standards and expectations through sequences of events that align with those ongoing activities that characterize organizations striving to improve their performance.

President Dunker handed out a copy of the WITCC President's Report.

Utman reviewed the adequacy of progress being made in addressing the previous accreditation visit concerns and all had been met. He also discussed the institutional strengths cited and outlined the opportunities for improvement suggested during the visit. The accreditation team recommended that Western Iowa Tech Community College be granted continued accreditation.

Motion: Wayne Kobberdahl moved and it was seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery that Western Iowa Tech Community College be granted continued accreditation through 2013-2014.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Eastern Iowa Community College District Accreditation Report

Roger Utman, Bureau Chief, Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education, provided information on the accreditation visit. He also introduced Pat Keir, Chancellor and Laurie Hanson, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICDD), present for the report.

The Iowa Department of Education accreditation team conducted the evaluation visit on April 30-May 2, 2007. The findings reflect the work of the accreditation team in the comprehensive review of EICDD. Eastern Iowa Community College District is following the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) model for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association. With AQIP, the institution demonstrates the accreditation standards and expectations are met.

Utman reviewed the progress being made in addressing the previous accreditation visit concerns and indicated all had been met. He also discussed the institutional strengths cited and outlined the opportunities for improvement suggested during the visit. The accreditation team recommended that Eastern Iowa Community College District be granted continued accreditation.

Pat Keir, Chancellor, Eastern Iowa Community College District, expressed appreciation to the accreditation team for the work and assistance provided to the faculty during this process. Laurie Hanson, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, EICDD, responded to questions and also said the work with the Department accreditation team was positive in helping the college meet the accreditation criteria.

Motion: Wayne Kobberdahl moved and Charlie Edwards seconded that Eastern Iowa Community College District be granted continued accreditation through 2013-2014. A state interim accreditation visit will be held in 2010-2011.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Supporting High School Reform

Kevin Fangman, Administrator, Division of PK-12 Education provided an overview of the Core Curriculum Project.

Warren Weber, Consultant, Bureau of Teaching and Learning Services, reviewed the Iowa's Systems Approach to High School Redesign and discussed the following three phases: 1) Case for Change, 2) Action Planning, and 3) Implementation. Weber indicated the High School Design Team consists of members from each of the AEAs and has developed a systems approach to high school reform that has been used in AEAs to facilitate local implementation of high school reform. He said the High School Project has 40 high schools involved and another 20 will engage this upcoming year. Using resources from the International Center for Leadership in Education, these schools are focused on improving their educational system.

Rita Martens, Consultant, Bureau of Teaching and Learning Services, said the core curriculum is being extended and expanded to include K-8 literacy, mathematics, and science; and K-12 social studies and 21st Century skills. She explained that work teams are currently involved in identifying the essential concepts and skill sets in these areas and will offer a recommendation to the State Board in April. The teams are also engaged in developing model units in high school literacy, mathematics, and science.

Martens reported that the Authentic Intellectual Work was made up of teams of teachers in nine high schools that currently use the standards of Authentic Intellectual Work to improve instruction. This pilot is being implemented with staff in four Iowa high schools. She also explained the Formative Assessment Pilot. Teachers in those schools are engaging in professional development aimed at improving assessment practices.

Director Jeffrey extended appreciation to this staff for their diligent work on this project.

Community College Students' Transition into the Workforce

Administrator Janice Friedel, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, said in August, 2006, the State Board had approved an initial set of performance measures for "Shaping the Future: The Statewide Community College Strategic Plan, 2006-2011." The State Board directed the Department to develop measures related to the transfer and economic success of community college students. Friedel stated that the following two new indicators are proposed: 1) Cumulative transfer rate and 2) Economic impact of Iowa's Community Colleges. In August, 2007, the results of the joint Iowa State University/Department of Education report of the transition of community college students to transfer institutions and employment were reported to the Board. The Board requested further disaggregation of the data within the career clusters to determine the economic impact of community colleges on wage earnings in specific occupations.

Dr. Friedel introduced Soko Starobin, Ph.D., Department of Educational Research and Policy Studies, Iowa State University. She provided a summary of research findings on postcollege earnings by national career clusters and offered the following recommendations:

- These data should be utilized to inform policymakers and practitioners that efforts should be made to assist CTE students in completing a degree, especially an AAS degree.
- Further study should be conducted that accounts for the longitudinal trends in earnings to determine their continual increase or leveling off.
- Additional study of the trends in earnings disaggregated by CTE programs (e.g., differences in student earnings enrolled in health programs versus those enrolled information technology programs, etc.) will further explain the impact of acquiring an AAS degree.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the additional information provided by Dr. Starobin of Iowa State University and thanked Dr. Friedel for coordinating this effort.

Board Member Reports

Wayne Kobberdahl reported that Marilyn Monroe had been appointed as Chair of the I-JAG Board by Governor Culver.

Charlie Edwards – No report

Mary Jean Montgomery – No report

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick indicated she felt the Iowa Coordinating Council for Postsecondary Education may have new responsibilities of looking at future employment issues for the state of Iowa.

Max Phillips reported that the Senior Year Plus Committee would be presenting the findings report to Director Jeffrey upon completion. It will be shared with the State Board following that release.

Kameron Dodge – No report

Rosie Hussey – No report

Brian Gentry – No report

Gene Vincent said he would be attending the Iowa Learning Technology Commission meeting. Part II grant recipients would be selected for 2007-08.

The proposed topics for the February meeting were handed out.

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting.

Gene E. Vincent
President

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director
and Executive Officer

