

**Minutes
State Board of Education
June 10-11, 2021**

Brooke Axiotis
President
Des Moines

The State Board of Education (State Board) retreat and meeting was held on June 10-11, 2021, in person at the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

Bettie Bolar
Vice President
Marshalltown

State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Hannah Groos, Brian Kane, Mike Knedler, Mike May, John Robbins, Georgia Van Gundy and Kimberly Wayne.

Brian J. Kane
Dubuque

Michael L. Knedler
Council Bluffs

Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ann Lebo, Shan Seivert, Thomas Mayes, Renee Jerman, Brad Niebling, Jay Pennington, Kala Shipley, Heather Doe, Jeremy Varner, Barbara Ohlund, Janell Brandhorst, Kathy Bertsch, Barb Anderson, Barb Guy, Larry Bice, Isbelia Arzola, Holly Barnes, Janice Evans, Amy Gieseke, Dennis Harden, Jeanette Thomas, Hannah Walsh, Earl Whipple, Buffy Campbell, Kassandra Cline, Marietta Rives, Carla Schimelfenig, Brian Bauer, David Canaday and Carol McMains.

Mike May
Spirit Lake

John Robbins
Iowa Falls

Georgia Van Gundy
Waukee

Kimberly Wayne
Des Moines

Also in attendance were Robert Hull, Abigail Potts, Sharon Cannon, Winona Hao, Renee Lang, Valerie Norville and Megan Blanco, National Association of State Boards of Education; Shelly Brimeyer, ISL Education Lending; Sarah Freestone, Grand View University; Deborah Harris; Samantha Hernandez, Des Moines Register; Jodi Maddy, South Central Iowa Community Action Program; Tamara Masters, Central College; Thomas Morrissey, Des Moines Area Community College; Lynda Probst; Linh Ta, Axios; Daniel Van Sant, Disability Rights Iowa; Lora Vargason and Michael Guanci, Legislative Services Agency; Chaney Yeast, Blank Children's Hospital; Tom Anderson; Margaret Buckton, Iowa School Finance Information Services and Urban Education Network of Iowa; Tara Gray, KWQC; Anthony Watt, Quad City Times; TJ Schneckloth, Lisa Crews and Nikki DeFauw, Davenport Community School District.

Hannah Groos
Student Member
Norwalk

Ann Lebo
Director and
Executive Officer

STATE BOARD RETREAT

Goals of the Retreat/Introductory Comments

Brooke Axiotis welcomed State Board members and spoke about the agenda.

Ann Lebo, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), welcomed attendees and commented on being able to move forward from the pandemic and the opportunity provided over the next two days for the Board to focus on the work that needs to be done.

Robert Hull, National Association of State Boards of Education

Brooke Axiotis welcomed Robert Hull, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Hull provided opening remarks and asked each Board member to share why they agreed to serve on the State Board.

Hull presented information regarding building capacity for effective leadership and governance. A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Mission
- Commitment to Equity and Excellence
 - Equity
 - Diversity
 - Inclusion
- Policy
- State Board Authority
- Doctrine
- Education Leadership and Governance
 - Reframe
 - Conventional vs. Reframed
 - Reframed Mindset
 - Reflect
 - COVID: Scope of Impact
 - COVID: Interrupted Instruction Impact
 - Unfinished Learning
 - How COVID is Reshaping Education: K-12
 - COVID Impact: Parent Perceptions
 - COVID Impact: Transition to Postsecondary Education
 - On the Horizon: Perspectives
 - On the Horizon: Parent Perspectives
 - President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
 - American Jobs Plan: "At Home" Infrastructure
 - New Maintenance of Equity Provision

- Rethink
 - Changing Student Makeup in the U.S.
 - Student Makeup in Iowa
 - Economically Disadvantaged Students: Percent of Public School Enrollment, 2018-19 School year
 - Percent of Children Living in Poverty: 2019
 - Children in Poverty – Current
 - National Assessment of Educational Progress: Grade 4 Reading
- Leading for Lasting Change
 - Why Data and Evidence Matter
 - State Board of Education Data Tools
 - How to Spot Quality Research
 - Theory of Action
 - Reframed Mindset

Equity Legislation

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, provided an overview of recently-signed legislation relating to equity. The Department will be providing guidance regarding the legislation.

There was discussion regarding the legislation's impact on schools, the work of the State Board Equity Committee, meeting with the governor and legislators, and the role of State Board subcommittees.

Social Emotional Health – Post COVID-19 Impact on Students

Brad Niebling, Chief, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, Barbara Ohlund, Administrative Consultant, Kathy Bertsch, Administrative Consultant, and Barb Anderson, Education Program Consultant, shared information regarding Social Emotional Health – Post COVID Impact on Students.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Alignment with Current Board Priorities and Goals
- Current Social Emotional Health Data
 - Social Determinants of Health
 - Suicide Rates of Youth in Iowa
- Statewide Supports for Social Emotional Health
 - Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Academic and Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health
 - Conditions for Learning Survey
 - Universal Behavioral Health Screener
 - Mental Health Grants & Resources

There were discussions regarding the number of youth who attempt suicide, therapeutic classrooms, involving parents and guardians to identify the supports their students need, and funding sources.

Reimagine Schools – Student Panel

Hannah Groos introduced four students, from Des Moines Independent Community School District, Johnston Community School District and Norwalk Community School District, who were invited to share how their education was impacted by the pandemic.

The students described their struggles with online learning and shorter term classes. They shared details regarding their social and emotional state before, during, and after COVID-19, and discussed reevaluating their future plans. They also described how the pandemic affected their activities and the loss of valuable time with their peers.

There were discussions regarding navigating virtual classroom instruction, flexibility with assignments, bullying and cyberbullying, and processes the students found valuable that would be beneficial going forward.

Legislative Update and the State Board's Role with Changing Laws/Rules

Renee Jerman, Legislative Liaison, Operations and Initiatives, provided a legislative update.

Jerman reported on House File 813, which outlines the two paths to establishing a charter school and requires the State Board to adopt a performance framework.

Jerman shared that House File 868 creates a task force to develop a framework to expand opportunities for a more diverse PK-12 teacher workforce in Iowa. The task force is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, General Assembly and State Board by December 15, 2021. Division III of the bill adds additional enforcement mechanisms regarding accreditation.

Jerman also reported on House File 228, which eliminates implementation of a voluntary diversity plan as a reason to deny open enrollment, and House File 847 regarding educational practices. House File 847 also requires the State Board to establish flexible student and school support programs and an appeal process for late open enrollment applications.

There were questions and discussions regarding House File 813, House File 847 and House File 868.

State Board Priorities and Goals

State Board members reviewed their 2021-22 policy development priorities and goals and suggested changes.

The retreat adjourned for the day at 5:03 p.m.

The State Board reconvened their retreat on June 11, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

State Board members continued to review and suggest changes to their 2021-22 priorities and goals.

There was discussion regarding State Board subcommittees.

State Board Meeting Format and Frequency; Meeting Dates and Master Calendar

There were discussions regarding the proposed State Board 2022 meeting dates.

The retreat adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Mike Knedler made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

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

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

Director Lebo provided an update on funding provided by the federal government and the assistance, tools, and support the Department will provide to schools.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mike Knedler made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Rules: Chapter 14 – School Health Services (Adopt)

Thomas Mayes presented the proposed amendments to Chapter 14 – School Health Services, which adds a rule of construction regarding therapeutic classrooms; changes language to “similar age/grade peers”; adds language regarding placement duration; provides specificity in the claims reimbursement process; revises the training review requirement; and revises the training review requirement timeline.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 14.

Vote: The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 15 – Online and Virtual Learning (Adopt)

Thomas Mayes presented the proposed amendments to Chapter 15 – Online and Virtual Learning, which defines terms; adds to the list of teacher qualifications; expands allowable sources of funding; adds a rule of construction regarding local flexibility; adds a rule forbidding schools from being completely online; and makes clarifying changes regarding students from other districts and course offerings.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and John Robbins seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 15.

Vote: The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 15 – Online and Virtual Learning (Notice)

Thomas Mayes presented the proposed amendment to Chapter 15 – Online and Virtual Learning, which removes the ability for students receiving independent private instruction to participate in certain forms of online learning. The proposed rule making conforms to statutory requirements.

Motion: John Robbins made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board give notice of intended action to amend Chapter 15.

Vote: The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 17 – Open Enrollment (Notice)

Thomas Mayes presented the proposed amendments to Chapter 17 – Open Enrollment, which eliminates the ability of school districts to offer voluntary diversity plans; makes substantive changes to open enrollment; provides additional requirements for Medicaid billing for students with disabilities who participate in open enrollment; and makes

nonsubstantive changes in grammar and choices of words. The proposed rule making conforms to statutory requirements.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board give notice of intended action to amend Chapter 17.

Vote: The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 31 – Private Instruction and Dual Enrollment (Notice)

Thomas Mayes presented the proposed amendments to Chapter 31 – Private Instruction and Dual Enrollment, which incorporates statutory changes that are within the jurisdiction of the Department and State Board; removes obsolete references to Iowa Acts that have subsequently been codified; and makes nonsubstantive wording changes regarding special education eligibility.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Brian Kane seconded that the State Board give notice of intended action to amend Chapter 31.

Vote: The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 36 – Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition (Notice)

Thomas Mayes presented the proposed amendments to Chapter 36 – Private Instruction and Dual Enrollment, which incorporates statutory changes to athletic eligibility for certain transfer situations and makes changes in light of current family law practice.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and John Robbins seconded that the State Board give notice of intended action to amend Chapter 36.

Vote: The motion carried.

Davenport Community School District Accreditation Update

Barbara Ohlund provided an update on the Davenport Community School District (Davenport CSD) accreditation action plan. Davenport CSD 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 CSD representatives on July 17, 2020. All parties agreed to the content and terms of the plan.

The State Board voted to allow Davenport CSD to implement the corrective action plan for the 2020-2021 school year with the additional condition that if the district failed to meet any single objective in the action plan, the State Board would 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 2020 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 chief financial officer to complete the action plan for the district at the district's expense.

Ohlund introduced TJ Schneckloth, Superintendent, Davenport CSD, who provided information regarding the district's youth leadership teams. Questions were asked regarding how the youth leadership teams were developed, how students were selected, and how the district is engaging students who are not part of the leadership teams.

Schneckloth shared that community feedback regarding the district has been positive. They still have some hurdles to overcome, but the overall feeling is that the district is heading in the right direction.


Director Lebo remarked that a new organizational structure will be implemented and a new leadership team will be in place starting in July.

State Board Meeting Format and Frequency


There were discussions regarding the proposed 2022 meeting dates and locations. The 2022 calendar will be finalized at the August meeting.

Mike May made a motion and John Robbins seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.



Brooke Axiotis
President



Ann Lebo
Director