



**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
March 11, 2010**

Rosie Hussey  
President  
Clear Lake

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
Vice President  
Des Moines

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick  
West Des Moines

Brian Gentry  
Des Moines

Wayne Kobberdahl  
Council Bluffs

Valorie J. Kruse  
Sioux City

Ana Lopez-Dawson  
Pella

Max Phillips  
Woodward

Frank Scaglione, II  
Clive

LaMetta Wynn  
Clinton

Judy A. Jeffrey  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on March 11, 2010, in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Wayne Kobberdahl, Valorie Kruse, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Ana Lopez-Dawson, LaMetta Wynn, Max Phillips, and Frank Scaglione, II. Director Judy Jeffrey and Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members Gail Sullivan, Kevin Fangman, Jeff Berger, Konni Cawiezell, Del Hoover, Roger Utman, Carol Greta, Denise Ragias, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Matt Ludwig, Jim Addy, Phil Roeder, and Jody Crane were in attendance. Also in attendance were Mary Beth Lapis, Swisher, Iowa; Charlotte Eby, *Lee News*; Dan Anderson, Marlene McComas, Abel Medina, Wilmer Flores, Michelle Villanevous, Eveyln Castro, and Dan Kinney, Iowa Central Community College; Paul Tedesco, Teresa Coenen, Jesse Kavan, Vista Souvandy, Victor Loera, Jesus Banda, Richard Bubke, Josue Rodriguez, Ramiro Martinez, Jesus Garcia, Mandi Stabelfeld, Jodi Theisen, Storm Lake Community School District; Crista Carlile, Kris Mesicek, Kittie Weston-Knauer, Bryce Amos, and Nancy Sebring, Des Moines Independent Community School District; Anne Sullivan, Marcus Haack, Liz Hollingsworth, Caroline Wannat, and Christopher Mophew, The University of Iowa; Jade Beehler and Matt Wilkerson, Spencer Community School District; Keegan Colletier, Waukee Community School District; Katelynn Geisinger, Colo-Nesco Community School District / Ames Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Career Academy Hunziker Center; Patricia Keir and Ellen Kabat Lensch, Eastern Iowa Community College; Staci Hupp, *The Des Moines Register*; Sarah Brown Wessling, 2010 Iowa Teacher of the Year; and Tim Grieves, Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA).

### **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Vice President Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

It was moved by Valorie Kruse and seconded by Wayne Kobberdahl that the March agenda be approved.

### **COMMUNICATION**

#### **Public Comment**

Mary Beth Lapis had a concern regarding interscholastic activities that are not governed by the State Board. She was referred to the appropriate activities association.

## Director Report

### ❖ Assessment for Learning (Formative Assessment)

Judy Jeffrey reported that the Department has been actively working with teachers and Margaret Heritage, from the University of California-Los Angeles, on assessment for learning (formative assessment). This will be an important component of the Race to the Top application. All ten AEAs, 17 local education agencies, and eight higher education institutions are participating in this work.

Jeffrey received a note from Margaret Heritage complimenting the Iowa members as some of the most knowledgeable and capable people in the United States on this important topic.

### ❖ Special Education Achievement Work Group

Jeffrey reported that a Department work group has been focusing on raising the academic achievement of students with disabilities. A long range planning document has been approved and training in mathematics will begin this summer.

### ❖ Continue to Improve the Iowa Core

Jeffrey indicated that the Department continues to focus on providing resources to schools for the Iowa Core. Links have been placed on Facebook and Twitter. Online resources also include:

- The Department's YouTube channel
- The Iowa Core webpage with the interactive links to the essential skills and concepts
- Live interviews from the Iowa Journal
- The Department's Legislative Briefing on the Iowa Core

### ❖ Department of Education Visits to Iowa's Community Colleges

Jeffrey and Roger Utman, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation Administrator, have been visiting Iowa's community colleges. On February 15, 2010, they traveled to Eastern Iowa Community College District, on March 3 they visited Northwest Iowa Community College, and on March 4 they visited Iowa Lakes Community College. Jeffrey said she is impressed with the quality of the programs and the opportunities that are being provided to high school and postsecondary students.

### ❖ Graduation Rate

Jeffrey reported that the Department recently released the National Governors Association (NGA) cohort graduation rate. Even though *The Des Moines Register* headline said Iowa's graduation rate had decreased, there is no way to know that as this is the first year that the actual number of students enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and graduated four years later can be reported.

Jeffrey stated that with the capability of the unique student identifier, the Department can now track all students who remain in Iowa. The NGA cohort rate also only allows for a four-year graduation rate when there are students who may take more than four years to graduate. In the future, it will be possible to report two different rates – those who graduate in four years and those who take longer.

❖ National Core Standards

Jeffrey indicated that the National Core Standards document is open for public input at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). Department staff members have been continually providing comments to earlier drafts.

Jeffrey mentioned there are concerns with the document. One concern deals with categorization by grade levels rather than age ranges or grade spans. Another concern is the stipulation by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the NGA that states need to adopt the standards word for word. Another concern deals with “skill and drill” in the language arts section.

Jeffrey stated that the Department is extremely supportive of the movement and believes that National Core Standards are essential for all of the students in the nation. Jeffrey told State Board members that if they are in agreement with these concerns, they should weigh in during this time of public comment either as a Board or individually.

❖ Race to the Top

Jeffrey reported that Iowa was not selected to receive the first round of the Race to the Top funds. Many of the states that received the funds had been working since last summer to build collaboration and understanding of their plan. Time was constrained and many of the face-to-face meetings had to be cancelled because of inclement weather.

Jeffrey explained some of the challenges the Department will face in gearing up for the second round. One of the challenges is that the Department will not receive feedback on the round one application until the first part of April with the second application being due on June 1. Another dilemma is that legislation that was passed demands administration and teacher associations to agree on one of four intervention models for the schools that have been determined to be persistently lowest achieving schools. There are significant differences of opinion regarding this legislation and school districts did not sign on to Race to the Top because of these differences.

- ❖ Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization  
Jeffrey stated that she continues to serve on the CCSSO ESEA Reauthorization Committee. The Secretary of Education will be releasing a draft of the U. S. Department of Education’s proposal. Congress is expected to take up the discussion seriously in May if health care is settled.
- ❖ State Employee Retirement Incentive  
Jeffrey indicated that up to 60 of the 128 eligible Department employees are expected to take advantage of the early retirement incentive. The Department will be faced with serious manpower issues as it currently has a little over 200 people and the anticipated retirements combined with the current vacancies will result in transition issues. The Department will be constrained with filling the vacant state funded positions because of the economic situation that exists in the state.

### **Legislative Update**

Konni Cawiezell, Legislative and Policy Liaison, Office of the Director, and Jeff Berger, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Internal Administrative Services, provided a legislative update. Cawiezell provided an update on the Department’s seven prefiled bills and the state’s reorganization legislation.

Jeff Berger provided an update on the education appropriations bill and school funding. He stated that a decision on allowable growth has been delayed because the Legislature wants to see how revenues will rebound. Berger also indicated that preschool funding will receive new dollars for the fourth and final year.

### **Recognize Wayne Kobberdahl and Frank Scaglione for their State Board Service**

State Board members Charlie Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, and Valorie Kruse provided comments and presented gifts to Wayne Kobberdahl and Frank Scaglione for their service to the State Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

Valorie Kruse moved and LaMetta Wynn seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Appeal Decision**

Carol Greta, Attorney, Office of the Director, indicated the Cameron Wilson appeal decision deals with an expulsion from the Oelwein Community School District. Greta reported that the student involved willingly brought marijuana to school for the purposes of selling. Precedential cases have established that it is not unreasonable for a school board to expel a student for the rest of the school year who commits this conduct. While not required to do so, the school district provided an appropriately licensed teacher to continue working with the student so he would be able to rejoin his class in the fall.

**Motion:** It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick to affirm the decision of the Oelwein Community School District local school board to expel Cameron Wilson for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Rules: Chapter 56 –Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Notice)**

Carol Greta, Attorney, Office of the Director, indicated that the majority of the changes to the Vocational Rehabilitation Services rules were designed to make it easier for potential clients of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to access services and to engage in the appeal process.

Greta stated that one item sent out for comment dealt with postsecondary assistance. Because of the limited amount of resources and the decrease in the amount of financial assistance available to clients as they enter into postsecondary institutions, the division is recommending that they decrease the amount that any one student might get so a broader number of students may be served.

Director Jeffrey indicated that waiting lists are growing because of the economic downturn and the lack of financial resources.

**Motion:** It was moved by Wayne Kobberdahl and seconded by Ana Lopez-Dawson to give notice of its intent to amend Chapter 56.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Approval for Charter Status – Storm Lake Community School District**

Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator of the Bureau of Accreditation and School Improvement Services, introduced Paul Tedesco, Superintendent, and Teresa Coenen, Principal, Storm Lake Community School District. Coenen is also in charge of the charter school.

Hoover referred the Board to a document entitled “Storm Lake/Iowa Central/ Buena Vista Early College Charter School.” This document outlines the following:

- School/District Information
- Charter Mission
- Charter Description
- Charter Snapshot
- Financial Stability
- Goals that were included in the original charter and the progress on the goals
- A matrix that includes Iowa’s goals for the charter school program and how the charter measures up to the goals

Superintendent Tedesco indicated that the charter school is open to all Storm Lake high school students and the main goal is to have first generation students have the opportunity to attend college and be surrounded by support systems. Tedesco stated they have a partnership with Iowa Central Community College and Buena Vista University. Tedesco introduced President Dan Kinney, Marlene McComas, and Dan Anderson from Iowa Central Community College.

Teresa Coenen stated that this is the fifth year for the charter. She shared highlights of the charter and reported progress made on the goals. She reported statistics that included percentage of first generation students to graduate from high school, percentage of low socioeconomic status population, percentage of English Language Learners, percentage of non-Caucasian students, number of program completers, and the number of program completers that are working in the Storm Lake area.

Current charter students and high school seniors that plan to attend the charter next year addressed the Board and provided testimonials.

There was discussion on the data sets, what Storm Lake did to require the charter status, authorization that is needed for charter status, how the charter is funded, what charter schools offer that can’t be offered through the regular school system, the cap on the number of allowed students, application eligibility guidelines, and the learning curve and challenges experienced.

**Motion:** It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Ana Lopez-Dawson to approve the Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School charter for Storm Lake Community School District through the end of the 2013-2014 school year. The charter school shall work with the Iowa Department to refine measurable goals and align to newly emerging data systems at the Department.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval for Charter Status – Des Moines Independent Community School District**

Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator of the Bureau of Accreditation and School Improvement Services, introduced Kittie Weston-Knauer and Kris Mesicek, Des Moines Independent Community School District.

Hoover referred the Board to a document entitled “Des Moines Charter School – New!” This document outlines the following:

- School/District Information
- Charter Mission
- Description of Charter
- Charter Innovation
- Des Moines Charter School Goals
- Des Moines Charter School Objectives
- Required Chapter 12 Flexibility

Kittie Weston-Knauer stated that the development of the Des Moines charter school evolved because of a need to engage more middle and high school students who are at risk of dropping out. She shared statistics that included the number of dropouts and the number of persistently lowest achieving schools in the Des Moines Independent Community School District.

Weston-Knauer provided background on the development of the Charter School application. Weston-Knauer stated that, if approved, the charter school will open in August 2010 with an enrollment of 100 students. The students will be selected by lottery with 50 students being seventh graders and 50 students being eighth graders. While the charter is open to all students, additional recruitment will focus on students who display early warning indicators that are associated with not completing high school. Each year, 50 new seventh grade students will be added until the total enrollment of 300 students is reached in grades 7-12.

Weston-Knauer indicated that the State Board's support will ensure the students in the Des Moines charter school will meet or exceed the standards of the Iowa Core and be able to develop the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills through the implementation of a variety of research-based student-centered instructional strategies. She shared examples of other benefits the charter will offer.

Weston-Knauer stated that being unencumbered by state and local bureaucracies will also allow the Des Moines charter school to quickly respond to student and family needs as well as the rapidly changing external environment. The lessons learned with the charter school will be shared throughout the district and the state.

There was board discussion on how this charter could affect how business is done in larger school districts, what the financial impact would be, whether the charter is requesting enough flexibility, what mechanisms will be in place to work with families, if more should be done to provide the same opportunities for every child in the state, and why the Board hasn't received more charter school applications.

Judy Jeffrey indicated that the flexibility being requested in the Des Moines charter application could have been approved by her, but because of what the charter will offer, she felt it was a good model for the State Board to approve.

**Motion:** It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by LaMetta Wynn to approve the charter school application for the Des Moines Independent Community School District. The charter will be called Des Moines Public Charter School.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies**

Director Judy Jeffrey introduced Denise Ragias, Finance, Facilities and Operation Services Consultant, and Tim Grieves, Northwest AEA Administrator. Grieves also serves as the chair of the AEA chiefs.

Ragias reviewed the timeline for submission of the budgets and the materials that were provided to the Board for their review and approval. She asked the Board to note that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act federal grant appears as both revenue and expenditure because it flows through the AEAs to school districts; AEAs 13 and 14 will be merging as of July 1, 2010, so fiscal year 2011 will be the last year they will receive sharing operations money; and federal revenues

have increased in fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2011 while state revenues have decreased due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Tim Grieves reviewed a document that identified the top three priorities for the AEAs. The priorities are: Child Find, Iowa Core Rollout, and Autism. He stated that the Iowa Core is the top priority that AEAs need to help the Department rollout. He indicated that AEAs are trying to be more systematic across the state.

There was discussion as to if AEAs had the funding and resources to begin delivering the services related to the Iowa Core.

**Motion:** It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Wayne Kobberdahl to approve the AEA budgets for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **The University of Iowa Superintendent Preparation Program**

Matt Ludwig, Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services Leadership Consultant, introduced Anne Sullivan and Marcus Haack from The University of Iowa. Sullivan introduced Liz Hollingsworth, Caroline Wannat, and Christopher Morphey also from The University of Iowa.

Ludwig stated that a significant amount of work done to review The University of Iowa Superintendent Preparation Program was supported through the Wallace Leadership grant. He described the makeup of the review panel and the process used by the University in identifying the components of the conceptual framework - Instructional Leadership, Transformational Leadership, and Operational Leadership.

Ludwig reviewed the standards Governance and Resources, Diversity, Faculty, Assessment, Administrator Preparation Clinical, Administrator Preparation Curriculum and indicated that all standards had been met. He also reviewed the Strengths and Concerns/Recommendations. Ludwig mentioned that both the institution's teacher and administrator preparation programs are scheduled to be reviewed in 2010-11.

There was discussion on how to balance theory and practice, groups that were targeted to provide feedback, and what is being done to set an agenda to transform the community's view and outlook of education.

Director Jeffrey reminded the Board that The University of Iowa had to redesign and resubmit the superintendent's program because they were not originally approved.

**Motion:** It was moved by Valorie Kruse and seconded by LaMetta Wynn to approve The University of Iowa superintendent preparation program through the state visit cycle scheduled for the 2010-11 academic year.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion on State Board Retreat Agenda Items**

State Board members brainstormed ideas for the upcoming State Board retreat.

### **Student Voices**

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director, introduced Matt Wilkerson and Jade Beehler, Spencer Community School District; Katelynn Geisinger, Colo/Nesco Community School District / Ames DMACC Career Academy Hunziker Center; and Keegan Colletier, Waukee Community School District.

Student State Board member, Frank Scaglione, moderated the session and students responded to questions regarding their future plans, teacher expectations, use of technology, what makes an effective teacher, changes in the school environment, issues for struggling students, strengths and weaknesses of the student's school experience, what role fine arts and athletics played in their school experience, teamwork between home and school, and postsecondary enrollment options.

### **Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce Update**

State Board member, Max Phillips, distributed a document entitled "Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce Recommendations." Phillips provided the history behind the development of the report and discussed the following:

#### Recommendations related to learner performance

- Support, assess, and enhance early childhood effort
- Enhance commitment to international and global learning

#### Recommendations related to teacher performance

- Expand and enhance the talent pool for teaching profession
- Enhance support for existing teachers

#### Recommendations related to systems performance

- Develop an enhanced learning community in the building
- Develop a system of incentives and a culture for innovation
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of school districts and state system

There was discussion as to what the State Board could do to move any of the recommendations forward. Ideas included:

- 1) Survey superintendents regarding what rules/barriers need to change.
- 2) Continue work on teacher and superintendent preparation institutions.

### **Innovation – An Example of Quality Instruction Related to the Iowa Core**

Kevin Fangman, Division of PK-12 Education Administrator, introduced Sarah Brown Wessling, the 2010 Iowa Teacher of the Year. Wessling is one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year. The recipient will be announced in early May.

Wessling provided a presentation on how the Iowa Core can shape innovative practice and explored the impact of such practice by looking at student work and hearing student perspectives.

Wessling also shared segments from a videotape series that she developed as part of a grant proposal project. The videotape series is available as a resource at each of the AEA's.

### **“Sense of Urgency” Campaign Update**

Elaine Watkins-Miller, Communication Consultant, and Phil Roeder, Special Assistant to the Director's Office, Office of the Director, provided background and an update on the sense of urgency campaign. Watkins-Miller indicated that the campaign is a result of a Wallace Leadership recommendation.

Roeder reported that the campaign is designed to help support and build awareness and understanding of the Iowa Core. A plan will be presented to the sense of urgency task force in late March. There is a target completion date of August. Resources are the biggest challenge.

There was discussion on how much the campaign will be dependent on resources, the make-up of the membership, and how it came about that the Iowa Core be identified as the sense of urgency area.

### **Board Reports**

Valorie Kruse attended a Wallace Foundation meeting and work continues on sustainability. The group is also moving forward on the sense of urgency campaign.

Frank Scaglione thanked the Board members for making him feel welcome and indicated that he's learned a lot from his experience of serving on the Board. He visited Van Meter Community School District to see the innovation that is being used in that district.

Ana Lopez-Dawson will be meeting with Department staff to see how she can assist in the area of English Language Learners.

LaMetta Wynn attended a community college ICN meeting.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick indicated that the Coordinating Council for Hearing Services will be meeting on April 8 and they are close to having a final report.

Wayne Kobberdahl had no report.

Charlie Edwards had no report.

### **Innovation Program at Eastern Iowa Community College District – Green Jobs/Weatherization Programs**

Roger Utman, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation Administrator, introduced Patricia Keir, Chancellor, and Ellen Kabat Lensch, Executive Director, Resource Development/Government Relations, Eastern Iowa Community College. Lensch is also the Executive Director of the Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center which is a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence in the area of energy and environment.

Keir and Lensch presented on the role community colleges are playing in providing workforce training for renewable energy industries in Iowa, what the labor force challenge is with relationship to the renewable and green industries in Iowa, and how community colleges have stepped up to develop concrete plans to build the technical workforce that is going to be needed.

### **Iowa Community College Joint Enrollment Report 2009**

Roger Utman, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation Administrator, introduced Jeremy Varner, Bureau of Community College Services Consultant.

Varner indicated that the Iowa Community College Joint Enrollment Report focuses on high school students that are also enrolled in community colleges. There are three ways students can enroll in community colleges – postsecondary enrollment option (PSEO), contract courses delivered through agreements between the school district and the community college (concurrent enrollment), and independent enrollment to the community college. PSEO and concurrent enrollment are the two main pieces of joint enrollment and both are Senior Year Plus programs.

Varner reviewed a PowerPoint that included information on the following:

- Joint Enrollment
- Total Enrollment
- Total Credit Hours
- Student Demographics
- Student Grade Level
- Offering Agreement
- Percentage of High School Students Enrolled by District
- Courses Taken by Subject
- Individual College Reports

Varner indicated that this report differs from other community college reports in that it is disaggregated by colleges.

There was discussion as to what options students have if a course is not offered at their local community college.

Utman stated that in developing budgets for next year, community colleges and K-12 districts are looking at concurrent contracts to determine affordability.

### **Miscellaneous**

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director, distributed a tentative list of topics for the May State Board meeting. She also indicated that the Governor's office is working to identify a new State Board member and student member.

The State Board has been invited to meet jointly with the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees. This would require moving the July meeting from July 27 to July 29. Board members will be surveyed to check availability.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

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Charlie Edwards  
Vice President

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Judy A. Jeffrey, Director and  
Executive Officer