



**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**March 26, 2020**

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

Ann Lebo  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, March 26, 2020, via Zoom. State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mary Ellen Miller, Mike May, Kimberly Wayne, and Fez Zafar. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ann Lebo, David Tilly, Thomas Mayes, Larry Bice, Matt Ludwig, Amy Williamson, Denise Ragias, Tom Cooley, Brad Neibling, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Dana Schon, School Administrators of Iowa; Bill Decker, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; John Jimo, Emmaus Bible College; Chad Biermeier and Jeffrey Haverland, University of Dubuque; Jeff Herzberg and Lori Porsch, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency; Tesha Ruley, Keystone Area Education Agency; and Michael Guanci, Legislative Services Agency.

### **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Mike Knedler made a motion and Angela English seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

This meeting was conducted in electronic format, with remote access information provided in the notice of the meeting, as permitted by section nine of Governor Reynolds's proclamation of March 19, 2020.

### **COMMUNICATION**

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Director's Report**

Ann Lebo, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), reported on work that has been occurring to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Since her first day as director (March 13) she has spent almost every day at the State Emergency Operations Center, where a team has been assembled to deal with the pandemic.

Lebo spoke about efforts to keep key functions running at the Department and guidance that has been provided to the public and school districts relating to COVID-19. She also highlighted COVID-19 information that is on the Department's website.

Lebo reported that work is occurring with Homeland Security. All guidance provided by the Department has to go through a shared response center so all of the information is available through that common system. The Department is also working with other partners to determine how to best meet the needs of children during this time.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Angela English made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

Thomas Mayes, Attorney, Department of Education, announced that the Governor's Office has asked all state agencies to suspend rulemaking that is not of an emergency nature or does not directly relate to the state's response to COVID-19. Since the Department does not have rulemaking authority, he requested that the State Board table the following rules until the May State Board meeting. He explained that tabling the rules will allow the process to be recognized that the State Board started this process. Not taking the rules up until May for formal Notice of Intended Action, will allow the Iowa Code editor's office to devote its work solely to rulemaking related to the state's response to COVID-19.

### **Rules: Chapter 12 – General Accreditation Standards (Notice)**

Thomas Mayes reported that the proposed change to Chapter 12 was a technical amendment that removes the sunset provision from the rule on independent accreditation agencies, which was stricken by 2016 Iowa Acts chapter 1138, House File 2459.

**Motion:** Mary Ellen Miller made a motion and Bettie Bolar seconded to table the Chapter 12 rules until the May State Board meeting.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion passed.

### **Rules: Chapter 34 – Funding for Children Residing in State Institutions or Mental Health Institutes (Notice)**

Thomas Mayes reported that the proposed changes to Chapter 34 are technical amendments that remove obsolete references to the Iowa Juvenile Home, as required by 2019 Iowa Acts chapter 100, House File 421.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Kimberly Wayne seconded that the State Board table the Chapter 34 rules until the May State Board meeting.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion passed.

### **Rules: Chapter 83 – Teacher and Administrator Quality Programs (Notice)**

Thomas Mayes presented the proposed changes to the Chapter 83 rules. These rules outline the general standards and program requirements that both administrator and teacher quality programs must meet to promote high student achievement and enhance educator quality. Compliance with these standards is required, and reported annually as part of the school improvement efforts. The current standards need updating because the national standards from which the current Iowa standards derive have been replaced by the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, which better reflect the current context in education and the knowledge and skills needed by today's educational leaders.

Dana Schon, School Administrators of Iowa, provided additional context and described the five key changes to the standards. Matt Ludwig, Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, shared general comments regarding the standards.

There were positive comments by board members regarding the content of the standards.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board table the Chapter 83 rules until the May State Board meeting.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion passed.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Ann Lebo provided an overview of COVID-19 guidance that has been provided to school districts. She reported that the Department's website contains the most current information. As the Department receives information from the federal level, it is incorporated into Iowa's guidance. The Department, as well as the federal government, look to offer as much flexibility as possible because of how rapidly the situation changes.

There was discussion regarding online instruction, federal government restraints, development and issuance of additional guidance, instructional hour requirements, assessment and accountability requirements, future use of current student data, filling gaps for loss of instruction, United States Department of Agriculture waiver to allow more funding for student meals, technology initiatives, and impact on students and families in terms of continuous learning.

### **Emmaus Bible College Practitioner Program Approval**

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, introduced John Jimo, Chair of the Education Department at Emmaus Bible College.

Emmaus provides practitioner preparation programs on its Dubuque campus. The program review and on-site visit were conducted in spring 2019.

Bice reviewed and discussed report findings, which includes commendations/strengths, recommendations, and concerns for each of the 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapter 79 standards. There was discussion regarding the follow-up process to concerns and recommendations.

Jimo responded to questions regarding placement of candidates in diverse settings, the number of hours (200 plus) of clinical experience before student teaching, and community outreach efforts in terms of minority recruitment.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board award full approval to the Emmaus Bible College Practitioner Preparation Program through the next review scheduled for the 2025-2026 academic year.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, and Mary Ellen Miller. Abstain: Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion passed.

### **University of Dubuque Practitioner Preparation Program**

Larry Bice introduced Chad Biermeier and Jeffrey Haverland, Co-chairs of the Education Department at the University of Dubuque, which provides practitioner preparation programs on its Dubuque campus. The program review and on-site visit were conducted in spring 2019.

Bice reviewed and discussed report findings, which includes commendations/strengths, recommendations, and concerns for each of the 281 IAC chapter 79 standards.

Biermeier and Haverland responded to questions about whether the COVID-19 crisis will interfere with Resolution of Concern #1 under the Assessment standard, plans to continue to offer early childhood and special education endorsements, efforts to recruit diverse students, availability of scholarships for diverse or first-generation college students, and the student retention rate.

**Motion:** Angela English made a motion and Kimberly Wayne seconded that the State Board award full approval to the University of Dubuque Practitioner Preparation Program through the next review scheduled for the 2026-2027 academic year.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion passed.

There was additional discussion regarding how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted the student teaching requirement.

## **Iowa Principal Leadership Academy**

Larry Bice introduced Jeff Herzberg, Chief, and Lori Porsch, Cohort Director, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency; and Tesha Ruley, Cohort Director, Keystone Area Education Agency. On May 9, 2019, the State Board awarded conditional approval to the Iowa Principal Leadership Academy (IPLA) program. Since that time, IPLA staff has worked to bring the program into compliance with standards. Department staff has monitored this work, and through a follow-up review process have found all 281 IAC chapter 79 standards to be met.

There was discussion regarding Resolution of Concern #2 under the Governance and Resources standard and the number of students in the program.

**Motion:** Angela English made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that the State Board award full approval to the Iowa Principal Leadership Academy program through the next review scheduled for the 2024-2025 academic year.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion passed.

## **In re: Athletic Eligibility (Interstate 35 Community School District)**

Thomas Mayes presented *In re: Athletic Eligibility (Interstate 35 Community School District)*. Mayes reviewed highlights of Administrative Law Judge Rachael D. Morgan's decision. There was discussion regarding lack of evidence of pervasive harassment, the open enrollment request, and the intent of the 90-day athletic eligibility period.

**Motion:** Bettie Bolar made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision finding that there was no good cause due to pervasive harassment, but granting the open enrollment request.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion passed.

## **Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies**

Tom Cooley, Chief, and Denise Ragias, Consultant, Bureau of School Business Operations, presented the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies. Iowa Code section 273.3, subsection 12, requires that the State Board review the proposed budget of each area education agency (AEA) and either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments by May 1. The State Board shall give final approval only to budgets submitted by AEAs accredited by the State Board or have been given conditional accreditation by the State Board. Eight of the nine AEAs are fully accredited and Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (MBAEA) has conditional accreditation for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Cooley stated that the proposed budgets for the agencies are consistent with previous years' budgets, and that MBAEA appears to be moving in the right direction. Cooley indicated that MBAEA is projecting to end fiscal year 2020 with a higher balance than what it anticipated when the budgets were approved last year. MBAEA is anticipating a beginning fund balance for the next fiscal year of approximately \$1.2 million.

There was discussion regarding the potential impact the COVID-19 crisis could have on AEA budgets, whether the financial reports reflect the use of anticipatory warrants as a funding mechanism and whether the reports reflect any budget issues.

Cooley reported that the Iowa Legislature has established 2.3 percent growth for state supplemental aid for the upcoming year and has also implemented a \$15 million cut to AEAs. The cut is consistent with past years, and AEAs account for this within their budgeting practices.

Bill Decker, Chief Administrator, MBAEA, spoke about the use of warrants, the \$416,448 amount budgeted for debt service, the potential impact of COVID-19 on MBAEA, AEA budget development, sustainability of the budget, and Forecast5's projection of MBAEA's budget.

**Motion:** Mike Bearden made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2020-2021.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Kimberly Wayne.  
Nay: None. The motion passed.

### **Recognition of Mike Bearden, Angela English, Mary Ellen Miller and Fez Zafar**

State Board members recognized Mike Bearden, Angela English, Mary Ellen Miller and Fez Zafar for their service to the board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

---

Brooke Axiotis  
President

---

Ann Lebo  
Director