

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
May 12-13, 2005

The May meeting of the Board of Education was held in the State Board Conference Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. Board members Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Jim Billings, Charles Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Rosie Hussey, Wayne Kobberdahl, Greg McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery and Tara Richards were present. Also present were Department Director Judy Jeffrey and staff members Gail Sullivan, Carol Greta, Jan Friedel, Jeff Berger, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Chris Evans, Tom Andersen, Warren Weber, Steve Wooderson (IVRS), Bev Bunker and Beverlee Adams. Also in attendance were Marilyn Alger, Iowa Department of Public Health, Judy Benz, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, Dave Palmer, IACCT Community College Association, Mark Draper, Loess Hills AEA 13, Jim Lindenmayer and Mary Stewart, Indian Hills Community College, Kim Linduska and Mary Chapman, Des Moines Area Community College, Veronica Stalker, Iowa State University, Troyce Fisher, School Administrators of Iowa, Quentin Hart and Greg Schmitz, Hawkeye Community College, Gene Gardner, IACCT, Jennifer Richards, Indianola, Madelaine Jerousek, *Des Moines Register*, and Pat Curtis, WHO Radio.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

It was moved by Rosie Hussey and seconded by Sally Frudden to approve the agenda as written.

Welcome New Student Board Member

President Gene Vincent introduced and welcomed new student Board member Tara Richards. He indicated Tara was a junior at Indianola High School and was involved in many academic and extracurricular activities. Vincent also indicated that Board members Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and Mary Jean Montgomery had been assigned as mentors to Ms. Richards.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Reports

Sally Frudden reported she had attended the School Administrators of Iowa Conference on Early Childhood. She felt it was an informative conference and shared a document from the conference titled, "Best Practice Research: Quality Preschool for All. Frudden also indicated that an outstanding early childhood presentation had been made by Storm Lake. She felt that this conference was a good opportunity to partner with several educational organizations and encouraged all Board members to take these leadership opportunities when available.

Wayne Kobberdahl indicated he had attended several high school visits. He felt that the different size districts had varied issues and the information gleaned from each conversation was extremely informative.

Mary Jean Montgomery stated she had attended two Iowa Public Television meetings. She indicated that an Educational Services Director from Kansas had been hired to replace Pam Pfitzenmaier. She also provided an update on digital television. The second meeting was a teleconference meeting regarding the editorial board concerns for a potential federal level political appointment to chair the Corporate Public Broadcasting Board. That Board serves as the buffer between the independence of public media and the executive branch of government. The IPTV Board would be sending a letter to the federal executive branch reminding them of the commitment for maintaining the independence of public media. There was also a brief discussion of federal appropriations.

Montgomery also said that Area Education Agencies 4 and 12 were working on a merger and the name that had been selected was Northwest Area Education Agency. She also informed the Board that Area Education Agency 8 was moving its headquarters from Fort Dodge to Pocahontas.

Ms. Montgomery stated that the Lakeside Laboratory curriculum was now available and offered extraordinary opportunities.

Rosie Hussey stated she had attended high school visits across North Iowa. The attendance was good and the opportunity for these conversations was welcomed.

She provided an update on the Iowa Coordinating Council by-law changes. The revised by-laws reduced the number of meetings, but the membership representation remained the same. The lowans for a Better Future Committee will be hosting a summit this fall and Ms. Hussey said she would provide information as it was available and felt it would be a good opportunity for Board involvement.

Jim Billings reported on his attendance at a high school visit. It involved one of the smaller high schools in the state – 39 students in the top 4 grades. He felt the district was trying hard to meet student needs and was utilizing the ICN, internet, and community college courses to offer and teach specific courses. Courses such as physics and chemistry were being taught with highly qualified teachers.

Greg McClain reviewed his attendance at the I-JAG meeting held at the Perry High School. He indicated he would like to have Laurie Phelan, I-JAG President/CEO, make a presentation at a future Board meeting on the successes of the program.

McClain said he completed his participation with the subcommittee on the athletic eligibility requirements at Waterloo Community School District. The vote was to not change the current GPA requirement, but to add mandated resource centers staffed with certified teachers during regular school hours for students that needed assistance in meeting the requirement for participation in athletic activities.

Mr. McClain indicated he had attended a good community conservation at Aplington-Parkersburg. He also said his absence from the April Board meeting was due to his induction into the University of Missouri-Rolla Academy of Engineering Management as one of the founders and charter members.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick indicated the work for the Iowa Braille and Sightsaving School Task Force had been completed. The report from the Task Force would go to the Board of Regents in June. She gave a brief overview of some of the recommendations that may come back to the Board of Education if approved by the Regents.

- The Board of Education and the Board of Regents create a coordinating council to review all of the services for students that are blind or visually impaired including those with additional disabilities and that the coordinating council include a broad representation from agencies that provide

services as well as those that receive services and other stakeholders.

- A recommendation suggesting that the two boards work together to expand the interagency agreements that were already in place and that those would help assure equity for services to visually impaired students no matter where they were in the state

Fitzpatrick reported that the Superintendent of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School was retiring at the end of the year so the challenge had been to find an interim director that would be able to begin to implement some of these recommendations while a search was conducted for a replacement for the Superintendent position. Jeananne Hagen from Grant Wood Area Education Agency had been selected for this interim position.

President Gene Vincent circulated a letter from Michael Gartner, President of the Board of Regents, that recognized Sister Jude for the work and time she had committed in serving on the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School Task Force. Vincent thanked Sister Jude for the many positive contributions she had offered while serving on this Task Force. Fitzpatrick indicated it had been a privilege and a learning experience to have served.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the discussion that had occurred during the board development work session at the last Board meeting. Board development was looked at in two ways:

1. Board membership in the sense of how Board members work together effectively to achieve the goals of the Board. It was the consensus that those kinds of skills would be addressed at the Board retreat.
2. Another aspect of Board development includes Board member understanding of issues that come before the Board, particularly relative to Board priorities. The following ideas were suggested:
 - Modify the executive summary for the State Board agenda items to indicate when a session is specifically designed to provide information/board development on one of the Board's priority areas.
 - Revise the new board member orientation process. Orientation needs to occur over time.
 - Each Board member will meet individually with Judy Jeffrey to discuss how we can work most effectively together – what are Board member expectations of the

Director/Department and what are the Director's expectations of Board members?

- A discussion was held regarding additional information and how much paper we want for building background on agenda items. It was suggested that the executive summary could list links to other resource information websites.
- Use the State Board Operating Guidelines at the Retreat as a basis for a discussion as to how we can most effectively work as a team.

Gene Vincent expressed his thanks to Board members and Director Jeffrey for the outstanding efforts on the success of the high school visits. He indicated he had received phone calls, emails, and written comments from places where high school visits had been held and they had been extremely positive and outstanding. He felt the visibility the Governor and Judy had provided for the Board of Education and the Department by getting out into the school districts had improved our leadership role and relationship with K-12 education.

Vincent reported he was serving on the Ted Davidson Award Selection Committee. This was the selection of an outstanding Iowa school board that exemplified strong leadership in accomplishing goals of school boards in serving children across the state.

President Vincent asked Tara Richards, new student Board member to introduce her mother, Jennifer, who was in attendance for the meeting.

Mary Jean Montgomery said she was serving on the Distinguished Service Award Selection Committee. It is a national award for a state board member or an individual(s) partnering with a state board of education. The five members on the committee met by teleconference. Montgomery indicated that the three nominees were all members of state boards of education.

Director Report

Director Judy Jeffrey reported on the following items:

- National recognition and leadership behaviors in Iowa schools
- Council of Chief State School Officers – Iowa high school redesign article

- Update report on high school visits and status on graduation requirements of changes taking place in school districts. A major result of the visits is the appreciation from the schools and communities of visiting the high school districts and listening to the needs and concerns about redesigning high schools.
- Update on No Child Left Behind Act – Collaborative work with school teams and district/state leadership in positive role of working with the NCLB implementation and staff development. Major concerns about NCLB mounting across the U.S. and lawsuits being filed.
- News article from results of high school conversations expressing need for more rigor in schools.

Charlie Edwards – No report

President Vincent again expressed his appreciation and that of the State Board to Director Jeffrey and staff for the aggressive commitment in visiting with all high schools and holding community conversations across the state. He felt it had been an extremely successful endeavor.

Legislative Update

Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison, presented an overview of both federal and state legislative activity affecting education.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The minutes of the April 14-15, 2005 State Board of Education meeting were approved.

Rules: Chapter 1

Chapter 1, "Organization and Operation" were approved for adoption.

Community College Certified Budget Report

Gene Gardner, President, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees, reviewed the community college certified budget process in the absence of Tim Wynes, President of Iowa Valley Community College. He said that hiring and retention in the community colleges as well as keeping up with current technology continued to be a major

concern in balancing budgets with the reductions in dollars received from the legislature.

Beverly Bunker, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation indicated that State Board approval of the community college budgets was a statutory responsibility. The report is prepared annually to provide the State Board with background information for review in approving these budgets.

Christopher Evans, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education gave an overview and explanation of the budget process and how the data was gathered and used. It was recommended that the State Board grant approval to the individual community college budgets as proposed.

Motion: It was moved by Jim Billings and seconded by Wayne Kobberdahl that the community college certified budgets be approved as proposed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion of the increased Iowa community college tuition rates. Gene Gardner also handed out an informational report on the community college accelerated career education physical infrastructure assistance program.

Athletic Eligibility – Review on Local Policies

State Board member Greg McClain presented an overview of the work done by the National Association of State Boards of Education Study Committee on Athletic Eligibility. McClain thanked the Board and Department for the opportunity to be able to serve on this committee. The mission statement for this group was that the purpose of high school athletics was to enhance the whole school experience for all students. Academic achievement must always be considered the priority. The privilege of participating in athletics should be recognized as contributing to a student's civic, physical and social development. He outlined the basic assumptions that had been identified as well as the charge given to the commission. McClain also shared data the commission had collected for the study group.

McClain concluded his presentation by listing the recommendations approved by the National Commission on High School Athletics in an Era of Reform.

Gene Vincent stated that he had had a request to bring athletic eligibility for an action item to the August State Board meeting and was providing this information to the Board. He indicated he would like to provide any changes for athletic eligibility to members well ahead of the August Board meeting date for their review.

Carol Greta, Legal Consultant, indicated that Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 36.14 regarding eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports provided a bare minimum eligibility academic requirement from which individual high schools could tailor a more stringent rule to meet the needs of the school district students. She updated the Board on the process the athletic eligibility conversation had taken to this date. She also reviewed the local policies on athletic eligibility that had been reported on the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) questionnaire from school districts.

Learning Supports (Addressing Bullying and Harassment)

Jane Todey, Consultant, Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services provided an outline of activities that addressed bullying and harassment.

- November, 2001: Conference 1 – “Anti-Bullying: Rooting Out Violence and Sowing the Seeds of Safety and Health”
- Fall, 2001: Safe Schools Leadership Handbook
- August 1, 2002: State Board Letter and Resolution
- November, 2003: Videotape—“Changing Perspectives: Paving the Path to Bully-free Schools”
- August, 2004: Governor’s Issue Forum – Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development
- January, 2005: Conference 2 – “Governor’s Conference on Bullying and Harassment: Power and Empowerment”
- May, 2005: Procedural Guidebook on Bullying and Harassment

Todey stated that learning supports included a wide range of strategies, programs, services, and practices that are implemented to create conditions and environments that promote student learning. A system of learning supports is a multi-faceted, comprehensive continuum of actions that are internal and external to the system of education. She explained that two years ago, members of the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development raised a question in reaction to requirements from No Child Left Behind. The question was: *How can schools and communities work together to ensure that all children and youth succeed in school?* As a result of this question, collaborative work began to design a system of learning supports that coordinate and align programs and services across state government that serve school aged children

and youth and their families. Ms. Todey indicated that additional work had been focused on the organization of those programs and services that were internal to educational systems to ensure that resources were used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick expressed her appreciation to the staff for the tremendous amount of work that was presented on this project.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Strategic Plan Progress Report

Administrator Stephen Wooderson, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, provided an overview of the strategic plan progress report. He outlined the following goals:

1. To maximize every client's opportunity to reach their economic, independence and employment goals.
2. Increase advocacy and support for rights of individuals with disabilities.
3. Increase capacity to serve all VR clients.
4. Increase interest and satisfaction in VR careers.

He reviewed these strategic plan goals and provided an explanation of how the measures, strategies and action plans fit together for implementation of the vocational rehabilitation program.

Mr. Wooderson said that vocational rehabilitation was a federal/state funded (78.7% federal funds matched by 21.3% non-federal funds) program. Upon receipt of a referral, an applicant would be evaluated for eligibility according to federal criteria outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998. Upon the determination of eligibility, the client may access services that are intended to lead to employment in the competitive marketplace. In conclusion he stated that the services may include evaluation, guidance and counseling, training, assistive technology, and direct job placement.

Update: Leadership Development

Troyce Fisher, Executive Director, School Administrators of Iowa and Project Director, State Action for Educational Leadership Partnership (SAELP) II and Veronica Stalker, Iowa State University presented this agenda item. Fisher said this initiative had begun several years ago with the State Board establishing a priority of improving educational leadership. The Wallace Foundation had established SAELP grants. To date, Iowa has received three SAELP grants. The last grant received resulted in an award of \$600,000 over a three-year period to continue the work to improve educational leadership in Iowa.

Fisher and Stalker explained the three Breakthrough Ideas that would continue to drive Iowa's efforts to influence state, regional, and local policy and practice in educational leadership for improved student achievement. They are as follows: 1) to embed the Iowa Standards for School Leaders into every phase of the Leadership Development continuum in order to ensure quality, consistency and performance by school leaders that results in increased student achievement in Iowa; 2) to conduct an intensive study of school governance, broadly defined, to determine systemic barriers that divert attention and effort from student achievement to more managerial functions, and to disseminate the results statewide in order to positively impact school governance policy and role expectations for leaders from the school board to administrators to teacher leaders; and 3) to study Iowa schools which were on the NCLB Schools in Need of Assistance and Watch Lists which subsequently narrowed the achievement gap and got off the lists to determine what leadership behaviors were most instrumental in allowing the schools to improve.

The work of the SAELP grant in Iowa will be overseen by a Leadership Partnership group that meets quarterly and is composed of representatives from the Governor's office, the legislature, the state Department of Education, Iowa's intermediate service agencies, Iowa's Higher Education preparation programs, the major education associations and practitioners. Their work also guides the venues for distribution of the "deliverables" that are a result of this work.

Early Childhood Education

Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education introduced Mark Draper, Regional Administrator, Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13 and Robert Koob, President, University of Northern Iowa and also serving as a member of the Iowa Business Council (telephonically) that were present for this agenda item.

Dr. Koob said he became more involved with early childhood education in 1996 and the role we all need to play to make sure our youngest children in the state are receiving proper care and education. That led to involvement in the State Empowerment Board and the Iowa Learns Council and advocating for early childhood with the Iowa Business Council. He discussed the following principles that the Iowa Business Council had identified and some of the actions that they proposed to take.

- The recognition that the early part of a child's life is very important.
- Providing for quality early childhood education is sound public policy and a prudent investment of tax revenues.
- Employers have found that employees are more productive when good quality early childhood education is available.
- Increasing participation in early childhood programs is not useful unless it is participation in quality programs.
- Universal access to quality programs should be available to parents of all interested Iowa children (voluntary rather than obligatory)
- Existing infrastructure is inadequate and it needs to be strengthened and developed.
- Iowa policymakers should explore the feasibility of reallocating existing funds within the education system for universal access to pre-K education.

He also shared the six activities that the Iowa Business Council plans to implement. They were as follows:

1. Advocacy
2. Communication
3. Sponsor two meaningful conferences with the business community and create more public policy around this issue.
 - The first conference would focus on economic value of quality early childhood education.
 - The second conference would host an expert that had had success in creating statewide efforts around quality early childhood education such as Governor Hunt of North Carolina.
4. Support and advocate for quality early childhood education.
5. Endorse the vision of a statewide vision that ensures 4-year-olds are engaged in active and appropriate learning in both public and private settings.
6. Create accountability measures and attach to all of the above.

The Iowa Business Council felt the discussion should be available to all preschool children. The Council thought that if they had to advocate for a limited thing, the beginning steps would be for 4-year-olds but that should not be interpreted as not having general advocacy for all preschool children.

Sally Frudden named other educational entities that had early childhood education as a priority with their organizations - SAI, Iowa Business Council, IASB, Urban Education Network, and State Board of Education. She encouraged partnering in some effective ways.

Dr. Koob said the proper delivery mechanisms were in place for early childhood education, but what was absent is any kind of expectations, regulations, accreditation and/or oversight body. Some state agency (Education) needs to propose that it become the responsible body or that we need to create an independent accrediting agency if we want to proceed in the same manner as higher education. Resources and staffing would be needed for the Department of Education to be the accrediting agency.

Director Jeffrey thanked Dr. Koob for his advocacy for early childhood. She indicated he was seen throughout the state as an individual who provides leadership in this area and she encouraged him to continue the work.

Mark Draper, Loess Hills AEA 13 Regional Administrator, stated that the Council Bluffs Community School District, in partnership with Loess Hills Area Education Agency had a long history of early childhood/preschool initiatives that have provided services for three and four-year olds. He felt that the efforts in Southwest Iowa, particularly in Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County really represent fine leadership in early childhood education and that the partnership piece was really critical. He said he was employed by the AEA but worked almost full time in the Council Bluffs Community Schools. This was a partnership that had been carved out in Southwest Iowa between an urban network school district and the AEA. Neither of the agencies could promote the kind of activity needed for preschool education without that partnership. He felt that stellar examples of partnerships were available to look at in Iowa. Increased partnerships were needed to develop a unified system to bring key stakeholders to the table so that the initiative can be forwarded to the degree needed.

Draper outlined the quality program components used by the Council Bluffs Community Schools /Loess Hills Area Education Agency:

- Full-time licensed teachers and trained paraprofessionals
- Research based curriculum and assessment activities
- Ongoing staff development
- Solid links to parent education and training
- Special emphasis on language and literacy
- All day programming with wraparound child care

- Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Dr. Draper concluded his remarks by looking at the following community, state and national partnerships that had been involved in their program:

- Focus on Early Childhood by the Greater Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce
- Pottawattamie County Empowerment Board
- Governor Vilsack and the Iowa Learns Council
- Efforts by Early Childhood Iowa and North Carolina Smart Start
- Recognition by the U.S. Department of Education – Office of Innovative Programs

Board members had several questions about the program beginnings, data, governance, successes and how other area childcare providers reacted to the program.

Update: Community College Activities to Recruit and Retain Underrepresented Groups in All Programs

Jan Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation stated that this presentation was an informational update for the State Board. It was an opportunity for the State Board of Education to ask questions and to have a conversation with three community colleges regarding their activities in this important area. The State Board added Goal #5 to "Shaping the Future: A Five-Year Plan for Iowa's System of Community Colleges" in 2003 in order to encourage colleges to take more systemic and focused steps to recruit, enroll, retain, and graduate minority students and students in nontraditional career fields for their gender. Listed below is Goal #5:

Goal #5

Iowa's system of community colleges will recruit, enroll, retain, and/or graduate persons of under represented groups (i.e. gender, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status) in all programs.

- A. Implement activities and services that increase awareness of the importance of gender equity and ethnic diversity as it relates to the social and economic development of communities in each college's geographic area.
- B. Implement strategies to increase the awareness of K-12 students as to the opportunities available through non-traditional careers.

- C. Strengthen the relationships of the community colleges with school districts and community based programs to target potential students in underrepresented populations.
- D. Establish a system to increase women and persons of color in leadership positions in collaboration with school districts, higher education, and business/industry.
- E. Increase the faculty and staff ability to meet the needs of underrepresented populations by utilizing research-based best practices and continuous assessment.
- F. Strengthen support systems that increase successful transfer and/or employment of minorities and non-traditional students.
- G. Evaluate the effectiveness of strategies designed to reduce disparities in enrollment, retention, and graduation by gender and ethnicity.

Jan Friedel and Tom Andersen presented information about the department's activities to support the attainment of Goal #5. Greg Schmidt and Quentin Hart of Hawkeye Community College talked about their current efforts to monitor and increase the program retention rates for students from diverse racial/ethnic groups and students in non-traditional careers. Kim Linduska and Mary Chapman of Des Moines Area Community College shared information on their community outreach program and their conversations about diversity that have been held on each of the college's campuses. Jim Lindenmayer and Mary Stewart of Indian Hills Community College provided information about a regional diversity conference the college sponsored and organized in collaboration with other public and private organizations in their area. They specifically mentioned the network of community contacts that was developed in the process of organizing and implementing the conference and how valuable that network will be in their future efforts to make Indian Hills Community College a more welcoming and inclusive learning environment for all its students.

Greg McClain asked questions about receiving a more comprehensive report with specific initiatives with supporting data for Goal 5. Jan Friedel said the report providing the requested information is brought to the Board each August.

Director Judy Jeffrey handed out the proposed agenda for the June State Board Retreat.

President Vincent recommended sending a letter to all high school districts on behalf of the Board thanking them for their hospitality and cooperation during the high school visits with us and stating the Board's commitment to continue working with them on projects for student achievement and learning.

Vincent also encouraged Board members to make contacts with legislators in support of education issues.

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting.

Gene E. Vincent
President

Judy Jeffrey, Director
and Executive Officer

