



**Minutes
State Board of Education
November 18, 2020**

Brooke Axiotis
President
Des Moines

Bettie Bolar
Vice President
Marshalltown

Joshua Byrnes
Osage

Brian J. Kane
Dubuque

Michael L. Knedler
Council Bluffs

Mike May
Spirit Lake

John Robbins
Iowa Falls

Georgia Van Gundy
Waukee

Kimberly Wayne
Des Moines

Hannah Groos
Student Member
Norwalk

Ann Lebo
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, in person at the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, ICN Room, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, and via Zoom. State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Brian Kane, Mike Knedler, Joshua Byrnes, Georgia Van Gundy, Mike May, John Robbins, Kimberly Wayne, and Hannah Groos. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ann Lebo, Shan Seivert, Amy Williamson, Dave Tilly, Thomas Mayes, Brad Niebling, Janell Brandhorst, Barbara Guy, Barbara Ohlund, Bill Roederer, Buffy Campbell, Cale Hutchings, Carla Schimelfenig, Christi Donald, Dennis Harden, Earl Whipple, Eric Heitz, Geri McMahon, Hannah Walsh, Heather Doe, Holly Barnes, Isbelia Arzola, Janet Boyd, Janice Evans, Jay Pennington, Jeanette Thomas, Jennifer Denne, Jeremy Varner, James Donoghue, Kassandra Cline, Kathy Bertsch, Larry Bice, Marietta Rives, Mary Bielke, Matt Ludwig, Pam Spangler, Rob Olsen, Sara Nickel, Susan Walkup, David Canaday, Carol McMains, and Tom Cooley. Also in attendance were Mark Stringer, American Civil Liberties Union; Alicia Espinoza, Rebecca Bates and Catherine Jacques, American Institutes for Research; Anthony Watt; Amy Kelsey; Ann McGlynn; Athena Gilbraith; Allison Beck, Dan Gosa, Karen Kline-Jerome, and Linda Hayes, Davenport Community School District Board; Blythe Kelly; Bridget Godes, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff; Amy Clayton, Mary Correthers, Lisa Crews, Susan Downs, Shaney Ford, Corri Guy, Robert Scott, Deborah Stevenson, Brenda Thie, Jake Klipsch, Sandy Schmitz, Bill Schneden, Teresa Wessling, and Josh Urmanski, Davenport Community School District; Courtney Olsen, William Decker, Shane Williams, Kim Hofmann, Randy Olsen, and Jennifer Coombes, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Carrie Weber, Ahlers and Cooney, P.C.; Darby Sparks; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus Staff; Deborah Harris, Western Governor's University; Dana Schon and Roark Horn, School Administrators of Iowa; Erin Jordan, The Gazette; Cassandra Erwin; Gary Sinclair; Grant

Gerlock; Jeff Lancial, Pearson; Jen Konomi; Jodi Heston; Kathy Hanlon, Lora Vargason, and Michael Guanci, Legislative Services Agency; Kevin McHenry, College Board; Karleen Stephens and Lorna Paxson, Diagonal Community School District; Margaret Buckton, Urban Education Network of Iowa/Rural School Advocates of Iowa/Iowa School Finance Information Services; Mike Vondran; Melissa Peterson, Iowa State Education Association; Marissa Schwartz; Olivia Cronin; Patrick Peacock; Shelby Fleig; Susan Etscheidt, University of Northern Iowa; Tara Gray, KWQC; and Dan Aude.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION – EARLY LITERACY

Amy Williamson, Deputy Director, Learning and Results, introduced Brad Niebling, Chief, Kathy Bertsch, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, and Janell Brandhorst, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement.

As part of the Department of Education's (Department) implementation of Iowa's early literacy law (Iowa Code 279.68) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Department has focused on instruction in early literacy statewide for several years. This work has been done in collaboration with area education agencies (AEAs), districts, and nonpublic schools. The latest data the Department has on performance and the ways to overcome the learning loss associated with the pandemic was reviewed.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Alignment with Current Board Priorities and Goals
- Alignment with Proposed, Updated Board Priorities and Goals
- Healthy Indicator Data
 - Model of Differentiated Accountability and Support
 - Healthy Indicator 1: Percent of Learners Screened with a Valid and Reliable Universal Screening Tool
 - Healthy Indicator 3: Percent of Learners at or Above Benchmark on a Literacy Screening Assessment
 - Healthy Indicator 3: Percent of learners at or above benchmark on a literacy screening assessment by learner population
 - Longitudinal trend of percent of students at or above benchmark
 - What We Know
- Resources and Supports
 - Enhance Universal Instruction Through Accelerating Learning
 - Assemble an Academic Standards Task Team to Lead Accelerating Learning
 - Understand Your Student's Learning
 - Set Your Vision, Goals, and Plan
 - Identify, Assess and Scaffold Unfinished Learning
 - Facilitate and/or Coach Teachers
 - Professional Learning Resources

- Accelerating Learning: What does it look like for teachers?
- Accelerating Learning Supports for Schools
- Reflect on our Goals for Achievement and Iowa Academic Standards. In What Ways do the Accelerating Learning Supports Help us Reach These Goals?

There was discussion regarding the information presented.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

An attendance roll call was taken. Present: Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Joshua Byrnes, Brian Kane, Mike Knedler, Mike May, John Robbins, Georgia Van Gundy, Hannah Groos, and Kimberly Wayne.

Joshua Byrnes made a motion and John Robbins 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 May 26, 2020.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

Mark Stringer, American Civil Liberties Union, provided public comment in support of the Chapter 103 rules.

Margaret Buckton provided public comment on behalf of several of her clients in support of the Chapter 103 rules. She also commented on the State Board's work session on early literacy.

Director's Report

Ann Lebo, Director, Iowa Department of Education, provided updates on several topics including:

- Department's role in approving COVID-19 waivers and support that is being offered to school districts
- COVID-19 website link that shows the positivity rates for schools on a rolling 14-day average
- Department's mitigation strategies looking at staff efficiencies and structures
- Department's organizational structure
- Mental Health webinar series
- Department's representation on boards, commissions, and external meetings

There was discussion regarding athletic restrictions on students when a district closes or chooses a hybrid learning model, counting days towards instructional time, the Governor's proclamation regarding spectators at athletic events, and whether any districts are considering to quarantine around the holidays.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

Rules: Chapter 79 - Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs (Adopt)

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, Office of the Director, and Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, presented the Chapter 79 rules. These rules outline the standards and program requirements that all traditional educator preparation programs must meet in order to be approved to prepare educators in Iowa. Compliance with these standards is required and is evaluated during each educator preparation program's approval review. The standards are also applied in an annual reporting system. This rulemaking updates the standards to remain current with national standards for educator preparation and align with Board of Educational Examiners rules for licensure. This rulemaking also incorporates required elements of Senate File 2360 and House File 2359.

A public hearing was held on September 15, 2020. No one gave public comment. The Department received one written comment, which was largely supportive of the rulemaking but raised one concern. The commenter asked the purpose of specifically referencing substance use in the description of students at risk of school failure, as opposed to other types of risk. The language referenced by the commenter is taken from the underlying statute and is illustrative and non-exhaustive. For that reason, no change was ordered at this time.

Amendments are identical to those published in the Notice of Intended Action.

Mayes provided a brief summary of the proposed key changes to the rules. Bice responded to a question regarding the Praxis exit test.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and John Robbins seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 79.

Vote: The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 83 – Teacher and Administrator Quality Programs (Adopt)

Thomas Mayes and Matt Ludwig, Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, presented 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.

A public hearing was held on September 15, 2020. One commenter, from School Administrators of Iowa (SAI), provided a history of the collaboration between SAI and the Department on this rulemaking, and requested an effective date of July 1, 2021. In addition, the Department received one written comment, which was supportive of the rulemaking. Amendments are identical to those published in the Notice of Intended Action, with an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Dana Schon, SAI, commented on her appreciation for the partnership and excitement for the overhaul of the leadership standards.

Schon and Roark Horn, SAI, responded to questions regarding the mentorship process for superintendents, and the reason for the shortage of superintendents.

Mayes reported that the other rules adopted by the State Board at today's meeting will become effective January 20, 2021, with the exception of the Chapter 83 rules which will become effective on July 1, 2021. This will allow administrators to not be evaluated under different sets of standards within a school year.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Joshua Byrnes seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 83.

Vote: The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 103 – Corporal Punishment, Physical Restraint, Seclusion, and Other Physical Contact with Students (Adopt)

Thomas Mayes presented the Chapter 103 rules. He displayed the file for this rulemaking process dating from the initial petition for rulemaking and recognized the seven initial petitioners as well as the other organizations and Department staff (past and present) involved in this effort.

This is the third attempt the Department has made at amending Chapter 103, Iowa's administrative rules on corporal punishment, seclusion, and restraint. This effort was prompted by a petition for rulemaking, which resulted in a collaborative

process to arrive at a consensus document. The detailed history is described in the preamble. A public hearing was held on September 15, 2020. Eleven people attended the hearing: four providing comment and seven as observers. The Department received three written comments. The preamble contains a detailed discussion of the public comment. In light of the public comment, the Department proposes three changes to the rules:

1. More detail in the documentation requirement in rule 103.8(2);
2. Express cross-references to other pertinent rules chapters in rule 103.8; and
3. A requirement to maintain documentation that public safety officials approved a seclusion room for use.

Mayes provided a summary of the changes to the rules. David Tilly, Chief, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, shared comments regarding the process and the value of the rules.

There was discussion regarding the requirement to assess physical damage, expression of appreciation for the time and effort, and considerations (cultural competency) before disciplining a child.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and John Robbins seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 103.

Vote: The motion carried.

Charter and Innovation Zone Schools in Iowa Legislative Report

Janet Boyd, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, provided an overview of the Charter and Innovation Zone in Iowa Legislative Report. This report serves as an update on the progress of the two charter schools in Iowa and contains required annual reports for the 2019-2020 school year compiled by each individual charter school in accordance with Iowa Code section 256F.10.

A board member shared an anecdotal experience while attending a sports event in Storm Lake.

There was discussion regarding “innovation zone school programs,” the demand for charter schools in Iowa, and how the funding works for charter schools.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board approve the submission of the Charter and Innovation Zone Schools Legislative Report to the Iowa Legislature.

Vote: The motion carried.

Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Accreditation Update

Amy Williamson provided background information regarding Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency's (Mississippi Bend AEA) conditional accreditation. She reported on the agency's corrective action plan and coaching support. Last spring, there was one remaining corrective action that needed to be completed and that was to end the fiscal year with a positive balance and to be able to maintain that going forward.

Williamson reviewed a document titled "Mississippi Bend AEA Ending Balance 2012-2020," which reflects an (unaudited) ending positive balance for 2020 at \$2,565,658. Since the numbers came in as projected to be over \$2 million positive, the Department recommended that Mississippi Bend AEA's accreditation be fully restored.

William Decker, Administrator, Mississippi Bend AEA, reported that the auditors are in the process of finishing the audit and have indicated that they do not expect any substantial change from the ending balance of \$2,565,658. He also reported that the agency has established a conservative budget and is expecting to finish this year with positive \$3.6 million. If the agency continues to over perform the way it has the past couple of years, it is possible the budget will be closer to a positive \$4 million.

Decker spoke about the agency's use of warrants. The Forecast 5 tool indicates that the agency's positive balance extends and will continue to grow over a course of a five-year projection.

Decker commented on the process and the relationship with the Department and the mentor coaches that were assigned to the agency. As a result of this process, Mississippi Bend AEA is a stronger agency.

There was discussion regarding the law around the obligation of an AEA to not have a negative balance.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Brian Kane seconded that the State Board restore full accreditation to Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

Vote: The motion carried.

There was additional discussion regarding the State Board's authority regarding AEA budgets, what the State Board should be focusing on when the AEA budgets are presented to them, and whether there are resources to study the law/rules.

Career and Technical Education Standards Adoption - Applied Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing

Dennis Harden, Chief, introduced Cale Hutchings, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education. The State Board adopted standards for all Career and Technical

Education program areas in September 2019 with the exception of Applied Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Review
- Pilot Standards
- Pilot Standards Feedback
- Pilot Standards Alignment

In response to a question, Hutchings indicated that these standards apply to the secondary level. Postsecondary community college level training has their own standards that are adopted through their accreditation process and their technical programming. There was discussion regarding alignment of the standards at the secondary and postsecondary levels, and whether certification can be gained through twelfth grade without postsecondary training.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Georgia Van Gundy seconded that the State Board adopt the Career and Technical Education Standards for Applied Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing as presented.

Vote: The motion carried.

State Board Policy Development Priorities for 2020-21

State Board members reviewed and suggested changes to the proposed 2020-2021 State Board Policy Development Priorities.

Motion: John Robbins made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board approve the Policy Development Priorities for 2020-21 as amended.

Vote: The motion carried.

Board Reports

Mike May shared his observations while visiting numerous school districts. He appreciates the good faith effort that is being made to serve students.

John Robbins commented on conversations he has had and the need to show support for front-line educators as they are doing the best they can under difficult circumstances.

He also spoke about his experience while serving as a lead evaluator on a school accreditation visit in Nebraska. He plans to serve on another visit in Nebraska in spring 2021 and hopes to serve on other visits outside of the Midwest and international. In addition, he attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) annual conference and new member institute.

Bettie Bolar shared takeaways from the NASBE annual conference. In addition, she participated in the 21-day Equity Challenge. She also reported on her experience helping her granddaughter with online learning.

Hannah Groos commented on how hard teachers are working and how long their efforts can be sustained, the quality of education (in person and online), students' social and emotional health, and student involvement in shaping education at the local and national levels.

Brian Kane spoke about community foundations and the need to bring more people to the table on grade-level learning and third grade reading.

Kimberly Wayne provided an update on the equity committee. In addition, she participated in the 21-day Equity Challenge and a panel at Drake University. She commented on the need for community involvement/participation around literacy efforts.

Georgia Van Gundy spoke about the fatigue and stress on workers and teachers that are on the front line and the need to be supportive. She also spoke about the pressure on school administrators and school boards when making critical decisions.

Joshua Byrnes shared comments regarding efforts that have been made by his school district's administration, parents, and students to make things as normal as possible during the pandemic.

Mike Knedler announced that Daniel Kinney was selected as Iowa Western Community College's (IWCC) new president. Daniel Kinney is the son of the current president, Dan Kinney. He also reported on a meeting he attended that described a partnership between Council Bluffs Community School District and IWCC.

Brooke Axiotis reported that she is no longer president of NASBE and is now serving as the immediate past chair. She shared comments regarding NASBE's annual conference and new member institute. She also plans to serve on the National Advisory Council for Drake's School of Education.

Davenport Community School District Accreditation Update

Director Lebo reported that William Decker, Administrator, and Shane Williams, Educational Services Director, Mississippi Bend AEA, are filling in for T.J. Schneckloth, Interim Superintendent, Davenport Community School District (Davenport CSD), while he is hospitalized with COVID-19. Mississippi Bend AEA is also providing support.

The district team has been working diligently on their corrective action plan. Specifically, focusing on budget and the Crisis Response and Violence Prevention work. Meetings are occurring twice a week to discuss progress and what support is needed.

Lebo shared specifics of a surprise visit to the district that she and Amy Williamson conducted on October 28. The district has a lot of work to do particularly in terms of budget cuts and restructuring some of their priorities. However, the district's processes are vastly improved.

There was discussion regarding the role Robert Kobylski was playing.

Amy Williamson reviewed in detail a document titled "Davenport Corrective Actions Update October 2020."

Shane Williams provided an overview of work the district has been doing on Crisis Response and Violence Prevention.

William Decker provided an update on the search for a chief financial officer and training for the Davenport CSD Board. He also discussed a document titled "Key Assumptions (General Fund, except in Green Cells)."

Gary Sinclair, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Davenport CSD, shared highlights of a document titled "Davenport Community School/Iowa State Board of Education/Finance Status and Action Review."

There was discussion about whether the proposed budget cuts related to staffing (salary and benefits) will get down to 80 percent of the general fund budget, whether the information presented included the \$9 million relief the district received in March from the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC), whether the educational impact is considered when making budget cuts, community conversations/engagement, whether the financial cuts could inhibit the Crisis Response and Violence Prevention work, and whether the Davenport CSD Board was aware of the district's financial issues.

Sinclair reviewed a document titled "Attachment D1-Monthly Reporting/Davenport Community School – Without Expected SBRC Items Through October 2020." Decker commented on the information presented and expressed optimism about the future.

The following Davenport CSD Board members shared comments regarding the financial information that was presented: Allison Beck, Dan Gosa, Karen Kline-Jerome, and Linda Hayes.

There was discussion regarding the district being on a 101 percent budget guarantee for next year.

Thomas Mayes spoke about the State Board's action in September regarding the appointment of an interim chief financial officer and potential required action at a future State Board meeting to keep the Department, Davenport CSD and Mississippi Bend AEA in alignment.

There was discussion regarding the district's ability to hire a permanent chief financial officer, the Department's oversight, the current superintendent's role and contract, and the process to get a School Business Official Authorization.

Diagonal Community School District Accreditation Update

Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant, and Janet Boyd, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, presented the Diagonal Community School District Accreditation Update. Boyd reported that Diagonal has corrected all of their noncompliance citations (60 out of 60) and recommended that the State Board revisit Diagonal's maintenance of accreditation standards through the universal desk audits and other required data collection methods.

Boyd stated that the district has had a history of issues with offer and teach. On October 27, 2020, Department staff visited Diagonal. A hand audit was conducted of all of the high school students' schedules to ensure that not only was the district offering courses, but there were actually students in the courses. As a result, the district has met the offer and teach requirements for this year.

There was discussion regarding the monitoring/follow-up process and how that is different from normal auditing.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that Diagonal Community School District does not need to report to the State Board monthly.

Vote: The motion carried.

An attendance roll call was taken. Present: Brooke Axiotis, Bettie Bolar, Brian Kane, Mike Knedler, Mike May, John Robbins, Kimberly Wayne, and Hannah Groos.

State Board Communication Policy/Process

Thomas Mayes and Brooke Axiotis led the discussion regarding State Board Communication/Policy Process. Mayes referenced an email regarding "Responding to Public Contacts." Axiotis offered suggestions to State Board members regarding how/who should respond to emails that are directed to all State Board members.

Alternate Achievement Standards Review

David Tilly introduced Barb Guy, State Director of Special Education, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, and Jennifer Denne, Consultant, Bureau of Leading, Teaching, Learning Services.

Tilly reported that this presentation is the first installment in a two-part conversation related to the State Board's adoption of Alternate Achievement Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Rationale
- What are Alternate Achievement Standards?
- English Language Arts Example
- Math Example
- Science Example

There was discussion around the essential elements alignment with the Iowa Core standards.

Brooke Axiotis turned the gavel over to Bettie Bolar.

2020 Annual Condition of Education Report

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, presented findings from the 2020 Annual Condition of Education Report (31st edition). This report provides information about enrollment, staff, Pre-K - 12 programs, school finance and student performance.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Student Demographics – Public
- Shift in District Size
- Teacher Salary Trend
- National and Midwest Salary Ranking
- Number of Teachers Trend
- Curriculum

Pennington demonstrated the online version of the report.

School Budget Review Committee Update

Tom Cooley, Chief, Bureau of School Business Operations, provided a brief summary regarding the October 13 SBRC meeting. The SBRC welcomed a new member - Mary Jo Hainstock, retired superintendent from the Vinton-Shellsburg CSD. This was also Director Lebo's first meeting - the Director of the Department serves as chair of the group. Mary Jo replaced Martha Bruckner, former superintendent of the Council Bluffs CSD.

Two districts (Wayne and Colo-Nesco) were late in filing financial reports. They will be required to present a corrective plan to the SBRC in December outlining how they will get their reporting done timely in the future. The SBRC approved two requests for modified supplemental amount (MSA) related to environmental hazard abatement and a request from Ankeny CSD for initial staffing costs related to opening of a new building. Also approved was a fund transfer request from Hinton CSD related to the district's response to COVID-19.

Following the hearings, the SBRC held its annual work session. One of the main topics discussed at the session was the State Board's recent action with the Davenport CSD. The SBRC has requested that Davenport appear in December to provide an update regarding how their fiscal situation is progressing. Director Lebo commented that the SBRC requested an update on Davenport to make sure their work and the work of the State Board is aligned.

The SBRC also discussed the impact COVID-19 and the derecho will have on districts moving forward and the fiscal challenges the districts will continue to face.

Fiscal Year 2019 School Level Fiscal Reporting

Tom Cooley reported that the ESSA added a requirement for state education agencies and school districts to report per pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds, including actual personnel expenditures and actual nonpersonnel expenditures of federal, state, and local funds, disaggregated by source of funds, for each local educational agency and each school in the state for the preceding fiscal year. The United States Department of Education provided a one-year waiver, for this provision, allowing FY19 to be the first year for the required reporting. Cooley noted this was a huge undertaking for districts and expressed his appreciation for the work of school business officials in helping decide how best to meet the requirements.

Cooley provided an overview and demonstration of how to view the data, which are located on the Department's website and are now included as part of the Iowa School Performance Profiles.

There was discussion regarding the information presented and challenges with entering local data for reporting into the system.

Equity Committee Update

The Equity Committee Update was tabled until the January 28, 2021, State Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Brooke Axiotis
President

Ann Lebo
Director