

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
November 20, 2008

The November meeting of the State Board of Education was held in the Renaissance Savery Hotel, 401 Locust Street, Des Moines. The following Board members were present: Rosie Hussey, Charlie Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Brian Gentry, Joan Jaimes, Wayne Kobberdahl, Valorie Kruse, Max Phillips, LaMetta Wynn, and Kameron Dodge. Director Judy Jeffrey and Department staff Gail Sullivan, Jeff Berger, Carol Greta, Kevin Fangman, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Jim Addy, Roger Utman, Jeremy Varner, Tom Schenk, and Jody Crane were present. Also in attendance were Lisa Stevenson and Bob Mata from the West Liberty Community School District; Mike Pardun and Heather Lagenfeld, from Denison Community School District; Jobi Lawrence from William Penn University; Bernice Richard, Shanlee McNally, Mike Young, Mike Kindschi, Pam Miller, Barb Opheim, Gary Norris and Sharon Miller from Waterloo Community School District; Linda Brock, Stu Cochrane, Lis Ristau, Jerry Schnurr, and Sue Wood from Fort Dodge Community School District; Ken Foster, Stephanie Sandquist, Jill Anderson, Erik Fisher, Becky Koch, Kathryn Riemersma, and Deb Hobbs from Norwalk Community School District; Helen Miller, Legislator; Staci Hupp, *Des Moines Register*; Rod Boshart, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*; Rob Dillard, Iowa Public Radio; and Robert Nandell, Lee Enterprise.

State Board Business Meeting

President Hussey called the meeting to order. Sister Jude moved approval of the agenda as presented. Charlie Edwards seconded.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director Report

Director Judy Jeffrey provided information on the following items:

- ❖ Channel 13 presented the Golden Apple Award to Ms. Hurtado. Ms. Hurtado is one of the visiting teachers from Spain. She has just started her third year at Southeast Warren High School.
- ❖ 2008 No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools
The Iowa schools honored were:
 - Denver High School
 - Pocahontas Area Elementary School
 - Runnells Elementary School
 - Southeast Elementary School in Waverly
 - Holy Trinity Catholic School in Des Moines
- ❖ Iowa was briefly mentioned in a recent Harvard Education Letter (September 2008) and Education Week (October 2008).
- ❖ On October 1, 2008, a new partnership among the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa's 15 community colleges, Iowa Public Television, and Mediacom was officially launched. This initiative will use on-demand television technology to make it easier for Iowans without a high school diploma to prepare for the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests. Dan Miller, Executive Director and General Manager of Iowa Public Television, and Judy will be traveling to Washington D.C. in March to talk about all of the different partnerships that are going on between public television and education.
- ❖ The Kern Family Foundation has agreed to fund a \$300,000, three-year research grant to study the effectiveness of Project Lead the Way (PLTW).
- ❖ The Department of Education and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) have formed a panel to advise on projects for the Education and Training Outcomes System. The system, which merges community college enrollment data with wage records, allows analysts from the Department and IWD to follow community college alumni into the workforce. The panel met on November 3, 2008.
- ❖ Last week, Director Jeffrey and Wayne Kobberdahl had the opportunity to participate in the Milken Award ceremony in Council Bluffs. Jason Plourde, a Council Bluffs elementary

school principal, received the only Iowa 2008 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Plourde will receive a \$25,000 cash prize this coming spring at an awards ceremony in California.

- ❖ Every year, the Governor provides recognition to state employees through the Golden Dome award. The ceremony was held on November 13 and Deb Hansen and Karen Chapman received the award as outstanding employees with the Department of Education. Employees with 25 years of service or more will also be recognized at a December agency-wide meeting.
- ❖ Jeff Berger is now the Chief Financial Officer for the Department. He will provide mentorship for the new legislative liaison and will continue to represent the Department as federal liaison. He was also selected for the president-elect position for the federal liaison group for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).
- ❖ Jeffrey recognized Kameron Dodge as the Southeast Polk Student of the Month.
- ❖ Jeffrey and seven others had coffee with First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. They discussed the successes of Reading First and the need to continue federal funding to assist states with struggling readers.
- ❖ Jeffrey attended a meeting of the National Task Force to improve mathematics and science education. While there, she served on a panel to encourage some 1,200 presidents, provosts, agriculture deans, and others, gathered in Chicago for the 121st National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) Annual Meeting to sign a commitment to increase the number of math and science teachers through their university preparation programs. Seventy-nine colleges and universities in 32 states have thus far committed to the Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative (SMTI).
- ❖ Jeffrey also served on a panel to discuss policy and Iowa progress in the evaluation of school administrators at a meeting for the Wallace Foundation.

- ❖ Jeffrey was recently elected to the Board of Directors for CCSSO and was also appointed to a CCSSO transition committee to advise the new administration. The CCSSO transition committee will represent the state chiefs and provide short-term and long-term objectives to both the transition team and the new appointees for the new administration in Washington.

CONSENT AGENDA

Brian Gentry moved and Charlie Edwards seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Diversity Initiatives and Activities

Kevin Fangman, Division of PK-12 Education Administrator, and Roger Utman, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation Administrator, reviewed highlights of several diversity initiatives going on in Iowa.

Utman provided an update on the 8th grade plan. He indicated that the state has had a career information system since the 1970's. He provided an update on how the career system is being utilized and how it fits into the 8th grade plan.

Another initiative is the General Educational Development (GED®) on Demand. Utman shared that the GED on Demand came about because of needs across the state related to time constraints, child care concerns and transportation issues. Iowa has the highest pass rate on the GED, not only in the United States, but also in Canada.

Utman announced that the state is involved in the Stem Equity Pipeline Project. This is available through a grant from the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity Education Foundation. Iowa was recently added, joining California, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Its goal is to increase participation of females in secondary and postsecondary science, technology, engineering and math cluster programs. Rosie Hussey asked that Roger keep the Board updated on the work that is going on with this Stem Equity Pipeline Project.

Charlie Edwards mentioned that he and Judy Jeffrey sit on a board of an organization that recognizes women in science. He suggested making information about these women available to school districts so they can

have these people talk to their students and put some real meaning into why this is important.

In regard to the 8th grade plan, Brian Gentry encouraged the Department to reach out to folks by identifying people in nontraditional areas who could give counselors advice and guidance that they could share with students and/or parents.

Kevin Fangman shared information on disproportionality. He indicated that due to 2004 IDEA amendments and 2006 regulations, school districts need to analyze their data on significant disproportionality related to special education identification, restrictive placement, and/or students who have been expelled. The data is also looked at for each area education agency in the state.

Fangman shared information on the Iowa Culture and Language Conference stating that last year over 950 people attended representing 14 states.

Fangman also discussed Learning Supports stating that this does not deal with academics, but deals with other things in students' lives that may be a barrier to learning. Learning Supports looks at the whole child and what they need to be successful in school and how we can support them.

Fangman shared information on Teacher Development Academies stating that districts and teachers have opportunities to participate in these academies that are aimed at increasing teacher skills. Fangman said that two school districts will be talking to the Board at their December meeting about two Teacher Development Academies - Authentic Intellectual Work and Cognitive Guided Instruction.

Jobi Lawrence, Co-director of Project Power Up, William Penn University; Heather Lagenfeld, English as a Second Language and Migrant Coordinator, and Mike Pardun, Superintendent, Denison Community School District; Lisa Stevenson, Curriculum Director, and Bob Mata, Superintendent, West Liberty Community School District, provided a panel presentation focusing on Project Power Up, Our Kids Summer Institute, and the Iowa Culture and Language Conference (ICLC).

Project POWER UP is a part of a comprehensive effort to improve leadership, teaching and learning through a combination of research-based intensive coursework, high quality professional development, and alignment of the English Language Learners Leadership Certificate program with K-12 state standards and assessments. The ICLC is one of

the most significant expressions of multiculturalism and pro-diversity education in Iowa. The Our Kids Summer Institute was developed and implemented in an effort to provide ongoing targeted professional development based upon the Iowa context.

The panel provided tangible examples of how these projects have helped improve teaching and administrative strategies.

A panel member indicated that the State Board's help is needed as they look forward to the opportunities with the Legislature to have discussions around looking at special funding for English language learners at the prekindergarten level. A panel member encouraged Board members to read the book "Caught in the Middle."

Panel members indicated that support is needed:

- For a systemic approach to English language learning,
- To make English language learner endorsements more widely available,
- For full-time Title III consultants in AEAs,
- To resolve licensing issues, and
- To advocate for additional funding.

Discussion occurred about dual language and international learning so students maintain the literacy and fluency that is needed in the business world to be able to transact business on an international basis.

Condition of Education Report

Director Jeffrey reviewed *The Annual Condition of Education Report*. She indicated this report includes a tremendous amount of information about Iowa's education system from prekindergarten through high school, including information about enrollments, programs, student performance, staff and finance. In addition, background and demographic information is also included. This document serves as a resource for educators, legislators, and citizens seeking information about Iowa's education system.

Breaking Barriers to Learning and Teaching Awards

Director Judy Jeffrey, President Rosie Hussey, Vice President Charlie Edwards, LaMetta Wynn, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Valorie Kruse, Joan Jaimes, and Brian Gentry presented the Breaking Barriers to Learning and Teaching Awards. The award was created by the State Board of Education to recognize school districts that have been successful in reducing achievement gaps by improving instruction, curriculum and programs, and professional development opportunities for school staff. The following were the 2007-08 recipients: Davenport, Fort Dodge, Keokuk, Marshalltown, Norwalk, and Waterloo community school districts.

State Board Policy Development Agenda and Master Calendar

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, reported that at the State Board Retreat in August, the Board had identified priorities for their Policy Development/Leadership Agenda for 2008-09. Sullivan provided a description of the priorities identified and a proposal for addressing them. She explained that the policy discussions and actions described in this Policy Development/Leadership Agenda are mapped out on the State Board Master Calendar and form the basis for State Board meeting agendas for the coming year.

2008 Iowa Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report

Roger Utman, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation Administrator, and Tom Schenk, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation Consultant, provided highlights of the *Fall Enrollment Report 2008*. This report serves as a demonstration of the capabilities of the community college MIS (Management Information System). Iowa's 15 community colleges electronically transmitted the fall 2008 enrollments to the Department on the 10th business day of the fall semester. All data in the report are taken from the Department's fall 2008 MIS electronic data files and were confirmed by the community college transmittal sheet.

Board Reports

Brian Gentry reported that the national head of public broadcasting came to the Iowa Board of Public Television meeting last month. She shared her perspective of where public television is headed. She indicated that because of the cost of producing frontline episodes, there is talk of repackaging and distributing programs in new ways such as the Internet. There are web pages that are free to access and they are

encouraging teachers and school districts to access these sites. Brian will share some of the websites with the Department.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick attended the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education meeting. She also attended a Coordinating Council for Hearing Services meeting. They are focusing on strengths and concerns associated with the system.

Valorie Kruse attended two Wallace Foundation meetings. She reported that it is fascinating to see how in tune that group is to what the State Board is doing.

LaMetta Wynn attended an orientation for new board and commission members, a meeting at the University of Ashford, and a summit in Ames where she learned of alternative grade schools. She's also on the Community College Council.

Kameron Dodge met with the North Polk School Improvement Advisory Committee. He also met with his counselor, superintendent, director of school improvement, and curriculum coordinator and they shared information with him from a 21st century skills meeting. Kameron also reported that he will be speaking at the December 8 High School Summit.

Joan Jaimes reported that she has accepted a job at the Marshalltown Community College and will be resigning from the Board.

Charlie Edwards indicated he had nothing to report.

Rosie Hussey attended a NASBE meeting in October and shared information on the sessions she was able to attend. She encouraged all board members to get involved in NASBE.

President Hussey adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Rosie Hussey
President

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director and
Executive Officer