

Minutes State Board of Education September 16, 2021

Brooke Axiotis
President
Des Moines

Bettie Bolar
Vice President
Marshalltown

Rodney Bradley
Denison

Brian J. Kane
Dubuque

Michael L. Knedler
Council Bluffs

Mike May
Spirit Lake

John Robbins
Iowa Falls

Georgia Van Gundy
Waukegan

Hannah Groos
Student Member
Norwalk

Ann Lebo
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education (State Board) meeting was held on September 16, 2021, in person at the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Rod Bradley, Hannah Groos, Brian Kane, Mike May, John Robbins, and Kimberly Wayne.

Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members present were Ann Lebo, Shan Seivert, Amy Williamson, Thomas Mayes, Brad Niebling, Janell Brandhorst, Jay Pennington, Heather Doe, Larry Bice, Maryam Rod Szabo, Barbara Ohlund, Lisa Albers, Isbelia Arzola, Holly Barnes, Bryan Bauer, Janet Boyd, Kassandra Cline, Tom Cooley, Destiny Eldridge, Janice Evans, Alison Jepsen, Hannah Walsh, Sara Nickel, Marietta Rives, Kala Shipley, Eric St Clair, Justin Stott, Jeanette Thomas, Mark Vandenberg, Earl Whipple, David Canaday, and Carol McMains.

Also in attendance were Joseph Adam; Gene Bechen, Beverly Downey-Eads, Elisa Huff, Charley Ohnemus, Deanna Stoube, Katie Van Blair, and Lynn Kilburg, St. Ambrose University; Chad Biermeier, University of Dubuque; Emilie Blankenship; Rod Boshart, The Gazette; Margaret Buckton, Iowa School Finance Information Services; Amanda Clark, Jennifer Diers, and Melissa McAninch, Central College; Heidi Doellinger, Iowa State University; Grant Gerlock, Iowa Public Radio; Brittany Kyles; Emily Piper, Iowa Association of School Boards; Mark McDermott and Lia Plakans, University of Iowa; Benjamin Forsythe, Cathy Miller, Tamara Powers, Catherine Miller, and Matt Townsley, University of Northern Iowa; Paul Rice; Phillip Sitter, Ames Tribune; Mari Ulrich; Lora Vargason, Legislative Services Agency; Anthony Watt, Dispatch-Argus; Bill Decker, Kim Hofmann, Joe Prosek, and Shane Williams, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Ryan Wise, Drake University; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus; TJ Schneckloth, Gary Sinclair, Kevin Posekany, Lisa Crews, Nikki DeFauw, Heather Harland, Danielle Heller, Jaime Kroeger, Joshua Urmanski, Jami Weinzierl, Teresa Wessling, and Brenda Thie, Davenport Community School District; Dan Gosa and Karen Kline-Jerome, Davenport Community School District Board; Jen Ney.

This meeting was conducted in person, with remote access information provided in the notice of meeting, as permitted by section nine of Governor Reynolds' proclamation of May 26, 2020.

State Board Business Meeting

Brooke Axiotis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Ann Lebo, Director, Iowa Department of Education, welcomed new board member Rod Bradley who shared his background. Introductions were made by each State Board member.

Mike May made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

Brooke Axiotis made a statement regarding limiting the time of public comment based on the number of speakers. She explained that the State Board will not respond to public comment aside from requesting clarification. The State Board may place a topic raised during the public comment period on a future meeting agenda. Any topic of public comment not related to a current agenda item will not be addressed at this meeting.

Communication

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director Lebo introduced Mindi Nguyen, the Department's new Equity Coordinator. Nguyen shared her background with the board.

Director's Report

Director Lebo discussed ESSER expenditure data, provided information regarding types of expenses that districts are receiving reimbursements for, explained the deadlines for monies to be spent, and shared information regarding the State Board's updated priorities and goals and board member engagement documents.

There was discussion regarding Director Lebo's upcoming school visits, Department engagement in workforce roundtables, board members using their state-issued email accounts, and the new Workday platform.

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, commented on pending litigation.

Consent Agenda

John Robbins made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Rules: New Chapter 19 – Charter Schools, and Revised Chapter 68 – Iowa Public Charter Schools and Innovation Zone Schools (Notice)

Thomas Mayes and Janell Brandhorst, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, presented new Chapter 19 – Charter Schools, and proposed amendments to Chapter 68 – Iowa Public Charter Schools and Innovation Zone Schools.

The rule making implements, in whole or in part, 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 813, as amended by 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 846. The rule making modernizes charter schools in Iowa, including creating a new pathway to forming a charter school ("founding group/state board" model). As part of the rule drafting process, the Department sought pre-notice input via a public survey. Some responses took issue with the policy decision to allow charter schools or the flexibility recent legislation affords to charter schools. Those comments deserve no further comment because those policy decisions have already been made. Many commenters thought that charter schools deserve flexibility, must be held accountable for performance, and must not discriminate. Those three concerns are addressed in the underlying statute and the proposed rules.

There was discussion regarding the application process, the timeline for a charter school to scale up, the two pathways for a charter school to come through, the approval process for current charter schools, financing and tuition, charter school accountability, transportation, and food service.

Janet Boyd, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, shared information regarding recent inquiries and the State Board's responsibility to approve two charter school annual reports as well as renewals.

There was discussion regarding out of state charter school management organizations, support from area education agencies, enrollment projections, and non-discriminatory practices.

Motion: John Robbins made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board give notice of its intent to adopt a new Chapter 19 and amend Chapter 68.

Vote: The motion carried.

In re: Open Enrollment of A.G., J.G., and M.G. (AGWSR Community School District)

Thomas Mayes presented *In re: Open Enrollment of A.G., J.G., and M.G. (AGWSR Community School District)*. Mayes reviewed the request for open enrollment from AGWSR Community School District, filed after the March 1 deadline, which claimed harassment as the reason, and shared his proposed decision.

The parent of A.G., J.G., and M.G. provided comments regarding the students' current placement and the family's transportation issue.

There was discussion regarding a similar precedent.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Rod Bradley seconded that the State Board affirm the proposed decision regarding J.G. and A.G.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Rod Bradley, Brian Kane, Mike May, John Robbins, and Kimberly Wayne. Nay: None. The motion carried.

There was discussion regarding M.G. Members of the State Board expressed concern regarding the family being required to pay tuition for M.G. at a new district and the distance between the two schools if M.G. is enrolled at AGWSR rather than with his siblings.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Brian Kane seconded that the State Board modify the proposed decision and reverse the school board decision regarding M.G. because of the distance between schools and the family being required to pay tuition.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and John Robbins seconded to table Mr. May's motion until the State Board has had the opportunity to review a similar precedent.

During a brief recess, members of the State Board reviewed *In re: S.W. (12 D.o.E. App. Dec. 69)*.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Mike May seconded to move the matter from the table.

There was discussion regarding the circumstances in the matter of *In re: S.W.*

Brian Kane withdrew his second that the State Board modify the proposed decision and reverse the school board decision regarding M.G. because of the distance and the family being required to pay tuition.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: May and Wayne. Nay: Axiotis, Bradley, Kane, and Robbins. The motion failed.

Motion: A motion was made by Brian Kane and seconded by John Robbins to affirm the Administrative Law Judge decision and the AGWSR school board decision regarding M.G.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Axiotis, Bradley, Kane, and Robbins. Nay: May and Wayne. The motion carried.

Educator Preparation Program Approval – St. Ambrose University

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, introduced Maryam Rod Szabo, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, and Eugene Bechan, Director of the St. Ambrose University School of Education. Bice provided background on St. Ambrose University, prior management issues of the St. Ambrose educator preparation program review process, and issues under the previous director.

Bice reviewed and discussed the report findings, which includes commendations/strengths, recommendations, and concerns for each of the 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 79 standards.

There was discussion regarding the work that St. Ambrose University has done to resolve issues in order to meet the required standards, their assessment system, their relationship with Davenport Community School District regarding placements, a student graduate tracking system, and the state review panel.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Rod Bradley seconded that the State Board award full approval to the St. Ambrose University Educator Preparation Program through the next review scheduled for the 2027-2028 academic year.

Vote: The motion carried.

Educator Preparation Program Approval – Central College

Larry Bice introduced Jennifer Diers, Director of the Education Program; Amanda Clark, Assistant Professor of Education; and Melissa McAninch, Associate Professor of Education, Central College. Bice provided background on Central College and their educator preparation program.

Bice reviewed and discussed the report findings, which includes commendations/strengths, recommendations and concerns for each of the 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 79 standards.

There was discussion regarding use of the Praxis as an exit exam, the number of students entering Central's educator preparation program, tracking of graduates, and recruiting efforts.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Kimberly Wayne seconded that the State Board award full approval to the Central College Educator Preparation Program through the next review scheduled for the 2027-2028 academic year.

Vote: The motion carried.

Legislative Proposals Process

Thomas Mayes shared information regarding the legislative proposals process for state agencies. There was discussion regarding the Department and State Board working together, alignment of board priorities with the Department's work, timing of the next legislative session, deadlines for proposals, and tracking legislation.

State Board Authority Regarding Public Comment

Thomas Mayes provided information regarding public comment and explained that public comment is an opportunity to be heard but is not an open dialogue and does not require immediate response. Topics for State Board discussion are required to be posted on the meeting agenda with public notice provided.

Board Reports

Brian Kane shared that he has been in contact with the Western Dubuque Community School District. He plans to meet with administrators and tour the district.

Mike May shared that he has been in communication with local legislators and has visited several school districts.

Hannah Groos explained that she will soon resume weekly meetings with the superintendent of the Norwalk Community School District and shared that she is part of the Iowa Student Learning Institute. Groos will be attending, and presenting as part of a student panel, at the Iowa BEST Summit in early November.

John Robbins stated that he has spoken with a few superintendents who shared their issues regarding staffing computer science classes, particularly in medium and small schools. He shared information regarding serving as associate lead for an upcoming school accreditation visit.

Kimberly Wayne shared that she has attended several back-to-school events including a Welcome Back Walk at a Des Moines elementary school along with United Way volunteers. She also joined Ryan Wise, Dean of the Drake University School of Education, at a welcome event for freshman educators.

Brooke Axiotis shared that the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) virtual conference is scheduled for October 6-8, 2021. She will attend and speak as part of a panel of state board chairs. Axiotis commented that NASBE is a great resource and that they will hold a New Member Institute next summer which new State Board members can attend.

Davenport Community School District Accreditation Update

Brad Niebling, Chief, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Support, provided background regarding the Davenport Community School District's (Davenport CSD) conditional accreditation and introduced TJ Schneckloth, Superintendent, Davenport CSD.

Schneckloth provided an update regarding the district's corrective action plan including work on early literacy, implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and the development of leadership academies, as well as a data cycle review.

There was discussion regarding the difficulty in obtaining trend data including conditions for learning data and early literacy data, district enrollment, the impact of open enrollment, and current barriers including staff shortages, enrollment, and financial issues.

In response to a question regarding next steps following review of the conditions for learning data, Schneckloth shared the possibility of using youth leadership teams and implementing mentors to leverage action that is sustainable.

Director Lebo provided feedback regarding progress being made and Davenport CSD taking ownership of the corrective action plan. She thanked Schneckloth and members of the district and school board for their dedication and commitment.

Schneckloth introduced Dan Gosa, President, Davenport CSD Board, who commented on adopting the Davenport plan and continuing to be accountable after all action steps have been met. Gosa shared that he has encouraged Davenport CSD Board members to spend more time in the buildings and also discussed the differences he has seen while serving on the board in past years to the present.

Gosa explained that he and Mr. Schneckloth plan to travel to various municipalities to introduce themselves with the hope of working together. He also discussed the district having good staff and that having cabinet members in the buildings is making a difference. He stated that the school board is very dedicated to the district.

Gosa also commented on the training classes the board members have attended and the work that has gone into rebuilding respect with the community, Department, and Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

President Axiotis stated that it is evident that the relationship between district administration and the board is a partnership, with all working together towards a common goal.

Schneckloth introduced Gary Sinclair, Chief Financial Advisor, Davenport CSD. Sinclair provided an update regarding the district's financial progress, certified budget, management of personnel, special education deficit, English language learners, use of ESSER funds, and unspent balance.

There was discussion regarding solvency, unspent balance, and special education deficit.

How Iowa Educator Preparation Programs Prepare Educators for Equitable Instruction Update

Larry Bice reminded the board that information regarding How Iowa Educator Preparation Programs Prepare Educators for Equitable Instruction was provided at their September 2020 meeting. He explained that standards for educator preparation, in 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapters 79 and 77, require educator preparation programs to prepare educators to meet the learning needs of diverse students.

Following the September 2020 meeting, the State Board requested that college and university representatives return in a year to provide an update regarding the metrics being used and how they measure success in preparing educators to meet the learning needs of diverse students.

Chad Biermeier, Head of Clinical Experiences and Assistant Professor of Education, University of Dubuque, presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

- Measure 1: Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)
- Measure 2: InTASC and Disposition Evaluation
- Measure 3: Portfolio

Lia Plakans, Department Chair, Teaching and Learning, and Mark McDermott, Associate Dean, Teacher Education and Student Services, University of Iowa, presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

- Action in Teacher Education
- Goal One Metrics
- Goal Two Metrics
- Goal Three Metrics
- Goal Four Metrics
- KRCUI Education Academy
- Continuing Challenges & Questions

Ryan Wise, Dean, School of Education, Drake University, presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

- Curriculum and Resources
- Learning Opportunities
- Continuous Improvement Focus

Benjamin Forsyth, Director of Educator Preparation, and Matt Townsley, Educational Leadership Faculty, University of Northern Iowa, presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

- Where UNI Measures Equitable Instruction

- Measuring Teacher Candidates Preparation for Equitable Instruction in Coursework
- Measuring Teacher Candidates Preparation for Equitable Instruction in Field Experiences
- Where we measure: United → Anthology
- Measuring Equitable Instruction via Transformative Experiences
- Measuring Equitable Instruction in Educational Leadership

Heidi Doellinger, Director of Educator Preparation, Iowa State University, presented a PowerPoint that addressed:

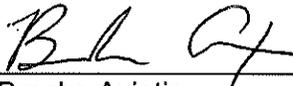
- Current Assessment of Candidates
- Work Last Year – Supporting our Ed Prep Team
- Work This Year
- Educational Leadership Example

State Board members commented that they appreciated the updates and look forward to receiving additional progress information in the future.

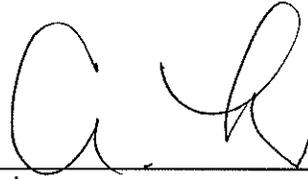
State Board members recognized Kimberly Wayne for her service to the board.

Mike May made a motion and John Robbins seconded to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.



Brooke Axiotis
President



Ann Lebo
Director