

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 23-24, 2016
615 Hamilton Street
Douglas, Wyoming

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Pete Gosar, Ken Rathbun, Jillian Balow, Sue Belish, Nate Breen, Jim Rose, Kathryn Sessions, Walt Wilcox and Belenda Willson (by phone)

Members absent: Kathy Coon, Hugh Hageman, Scotty Ratliff, and Robin Schamber

Also present: Chelsie Oaks, WDE; Brent Young, WDE; Brent Bacon, WDE; Lisa Weigel, WDE; Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator; Mackenzie Williams, Attorney General's Office (AG); Tom Sachse, SBE Coordinator.

June 23, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Pete Gosar, called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

Chelsie Oaks conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sue Belish moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ken Rathbun; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May 19-20, 2016 State Board of Education (SBE) meetings were presented for approval.

Ken Rathbun moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Jillian Balow; the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SBE Treasurer, Ken Rathbun, presented the summary report for board's budgets with the ending balance of \$108,723.05. Additionally, WDE Liaison, Brent Young, presented the 2017 biennium budget to the board.

Walt Wilcox moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

WYOMING STATE SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Superintendent Jillian Balow directed the board to the WDE website and discussed the current professional development opportunities being offered by the department.

Jillian addressed the budget cuts and said that with those cuts the department will have to change the way it does business. She added that supporting the districts and schools will be the top priority of the department.

ACCREDITATION PRESENTATION

Dianne Frazer, WDE, reviewed the meeting materials provided in the packet on the 2015-2016 Wyoming accreditation visits and recommendations.

Geri Frizgerald, AdvancED, presented data on where Wyoming ranks at the national level from the results of the accreditation visits in 2015-2016.

Chairman Pete Gosar reminded the board that action will be taken on these recommendations the following day.

RESPONSES TO SELECT COMMITTEE

Kathy Scheurman from the Wyoming Education Association with Andrea Bryant and Nick Bellack from Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) discussed Phase II Accountability in the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

The board thanked everyone for the discussion.

BOARD REPORTS AND UPDATES

September 1 Legislative Report

Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator, discussed the September 1 Report that will be submitted to the Legislature. Paige is currently on contract until June 30th and in the coming days she will be adding an executive summary and she will clean up the citation errors. She reminded the board that it has only been asked to weigh in on the structure of the State Board.

Alignment Interim Work

Paige Fenton Hughes stated that the work will be completed before her June 30th deadline. She apologized that the alignment piece had become lengthier than she first imagined but felt this was a good chance to clean up the statutes. She thought that the board would be making two recommendations to the Legislature on possible changes to the statutes; one with substantive changes and the other with grammatical errors. Lastly, she notified the board to be on the look-out of draft legislation on alignment in December.

SBE Policy Review

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes presented the SBE policies in the meeting packet for review.

Jillian Balow expressed her concern about the current policy recommendations before the board. She thinks they inhibit the ability to be proactive and responsive. She believed that the recommendations are reflective of the current situation and that they have not been working. Specifically she was concerned with the chair being the only one able to call a debrief meeting and the process in which meeting agendas are created and approved.

Kathryn Sessions moved that Section 8 of the policy manual be revised to read: The Chair shall, at his/her discretion hold a debrief meeting with the State Superintendent and any other individuals deemed necessary. No second was given; the motion failed.

Walt Wilcox moved that the whole paragraph on holding a debrief meeting in Section 8 of the policy manual be deleted, Ken Rathbun seconded.

The board discussed if having debrief meetings created a collaborative environment and if a debrief meeting could be called if it was not in the board's policy manual.

The motion failed.

The board discussed the development of agendas and that Section 19 is referenced in Section 8 but that Section 19 was not before them at this meeting to discuss and make certain that each section complies with each other.

In the August meeting the board will review Section 19 and a collaborative process on agenda making will be included in the revision. The board tabled further policy discussion until the following day.

Strategic Action Plan

Paige Fenton Hughes presented the revised strategic action plan that reflected the changes the board requested in the May meeting. The changes included a section on the people who are responsible for completing tasks and a results column.

The Wyoming State Board of Education recessed at 5:58 p.m.

June 24, 2016

The Wyoming State Board of Education reconvened at 8:14 a.m.

CONTINUATION OF BOARD REPORTS AND UPDATES

Theory of Action

Tom Sachse, SBE Coordinator, reviewed a theory of action process from the Center of Educational Leadership and the benefits of creating a theory of action plan as a tool.

Sue Belish notified the board that a special meeting will be called in July and that Deb Lindsey, WDE, will be presenting the WDE's theory of action for the assessment request for proposal.

Chapter 31 Rules

Brent Young, WDE Liaison, presented the timeline on the Chapter 31 Rules provided in the meeting packet and explained that there is currently a meeting scheduled for Monday, June 27th to review the comments and edits received on the rules. Brent stated that the department will be ready to present in the July special meeting.

Sue Belish requested that Tom Sachse be invited to be a part of that meeting and expressed concerned that rules might actually expire in July but that the timeline contains an August date.

Mackenzie Williams, SBE attorney, clarified that it is the emergency rules that will expire in August.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM IN CONVERSE CSD #1

Dan Espeland, Superintendent of Converse CSD #1, introduced Wendy Gamble and Amelie Tomlin from the Converse CSD #1 early childhood program. Wendy and Amelie explained the two programs that are offered by the district, the Family and School Transitions program (FAST) and the Converse CSD #1 Daycare.

The Board received additional informational handouts on each program.

CONTINUATION OF BOARD REPORTS AND UPDATES

ESSA Update

Brent Young reported THAT the department would be holding virtual town hall meetings around the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Brent is looking forward to engaging stakeholders and the link to the town hall meetings have been forwarded to members. Meeting dates for the town hall meetings:

- Thursday, July 7: Standards & Assessment
- Thursday, July 14: Teacher & Leader Quality
- Thursday, August 4: School Improvement
- Thursday, August 11: Accountability
- Tuesday, August 16: Federal Funds

Nate Breen asked if the department has been monitoring calls and inquiries from the public on ESSA .

Jillian Balow noted that there is a link to the WDE website that is dedicated to ESSA and it has a place where people can leave comments and questions. She agreed that communication with stakeholders is very important and that in the department they are having conversations about ESSA in everything they do.

Budget Overview

Ken Rathbun presented a budget summary on the 2017 biennium budget and noted that there will be enough money to cover an additional \$40,000 for the Pascal Public Relations contract for the next year.

Kathryn Sessions wanted to know what work from Pascal Public Relations the board is getting with this additional \$40,000 funding and what the true value of that work is.

Statewide System of Support

Brent Young presented on the work that has taken place on scheduling and facilitating data retreats and that the department is starting to get calls from schools that aren't priority schools. The department will work to meet the needs of those as well work to keep the priority schools a priority, and it will begin a train-the-trainer model for those interested in facilitating the data retreat and root cause analysis work. Brent added that UW has offered to train eight people, and the Wyoming curriculum directors want to train all who are interested.

Dr. Joel Dvorak also mentioned the data retreats and the training that is taking place and reviewed the work of the collaborative council. He noted that partnerships are developing and bearing fruit.

Kathryn Sessions asked if Joel would be able to present to the Joint Education Committee (JEC).

Joel stated that he has reported to the Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability but would like to report to the JEC as well if the opportunity arose.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accountability Committee

Jim Rose gave a brief overview on the most recent Accountability Committee meeting with the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) on the theory of action for the request for proposal (RFP) for the new assessment.

Communication Committee

Ken Rathbun presented his communications committee report that was forwarded to the board regarding to the June 20th meeting.

Paige Fenton Hughes explained where the miscommunication happened regarding the contract and the "shall not exceed clause".

Sue Belish talked about why the board even began this communication work and that she does not feel that all the things are in place to cease the work for Pascal Public Relations and that she is not certain if a whole another year is necessary.

Kathryn Sessions commented that she is worried it is a lot of money for what the board got in return.

Pete Gosar added that he felt there is a value in the work and it is apparent since the board is now contacted and is brought to the table on things.

Kathryn Sessions requested that all of Pascal Public Relations invoices be forwarded to her.

Sue Belish moved to approve the Communications Committee recommendation on extending the funding with Pascal Public Relations to an additional \$40,000. Nate Breen seconded; the motion carried.

Administration Committee

Sue Belish reported that the committee met on the morning of June 23rd. The committee discussed protocol with contracts, ESSA, and in the future would like to see a Pathways documents.

Advisory Committee

Sue Belish gave an update on the Advisory Committee to the Select Committee that met in June.

Update on JEC Meeting

Chairman, Pete Gosar, reviewed the meeting and the discussions on the alignment of efforts and the coordinator position. He noted that the committee is looking forward to the final September 1 report from the board.

Tribal Relations Committee

Paige Fenton Hughes gave a quick synopsis of the tribal relations meeting and a discussion during the Public Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) meeting around Native American education.

ACCREDITATION

Kathryn Sessions moved that the following Wyoming school districts be granted full accreditation:

Albany CSD #1	Crook CSD #1	Johnson CSD #1	Platte CSD #1	Uinta CSD #4
Big Horn CSD #1	Fremont CSD #1	Laramie CSD #1	Sheridan CSD #1	Uinta CSD #6
Big Horn CSD #2	Fremont CSD #6	Laramie CSD #2	Sheridan CSD #2	Washakie CSD #1
Big Horn CSD #3	Fremont CSD #14	Lincoln CSD #1	Sheridan CSD #3	Washakie CSD #2
Big Horn CSD #4	Fremont CSD #21	Lincoln CSD #2	Sublette CSD #1	Weston CSD #1
Campbell CSD #1	Fremont CSD #24	Natrona CSD #1	Sublette CSD #9	Weston CSD #7
Carbon CSD #1	Fremont CSD #25	Niobrara CSD #1	Sweetwater CSD #1	
Carbon CSD #2	Fremont CSD #38	Park CSD #1	Sweetwater CSD #2	
Converse CSD #1	Goshen CSD #1	Park CSD #6	Teton CSD #1	
Converse CSD #2	Hot Springs CSD	Park CSD #16	Uinta CSD #1	

Seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

Ken Rathbun moved that the following Wyoming school districts be granted accreditation with follow-up:

Fremont CSD #2
Platte CSD #2
St. Stephens School

Seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

Nate Breen moved that the following Wyoming institutional schools be granted full accreditation:

Big Horn Basin Children's Center (Northwest BOCES)
Colter High School (Wyoming Boys' School)
C-V Ranch (Region V BOCES)
Mae Olson Education Center (Cathedral Home for
Children) Powder River Basin Children's Center
(Northeast BOCES) Red Top Meadows
St. Joseph's Children's Home
Wyoming Behavioral Institute
Wyoming Girls' School

Seconded by Kathryn Sessions; the motion carried.

Nate Breen moved that the following Wyoming institutional schools be granted accreditation with follow-up:

Normative Services

Youth Emergency Services

Seconded by Kathryn Sessions; the motion carried.

ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULE FOR LINCOLN CSD #2

Sue Belish moved the request for an alternative schedule from Lincoln County School District # 2 be approved for the 2016-17 school year. Seconded by Jillian Balow; the motion carried.

SBE POLICES

Kathryn Sessions moved to approve the policy revisions to Section 1, Section 2 & Section 3 of the State Board of Education Policy and Governance Manual; seconded by Sue Belish.

Jillian Balow commentated that she did not feel it was appropriate to include "Board Coordinator" in the policies when the position has only been approved for one additional year. She suggested "Board Staff" be used instead. Ken Rathbun agreed.

Kathryn Sessions moved to amend her motion to reflect the change that all the policies use "Board Staff" instead of "Board Coordinator". Seconded by Jillian Balow.

Sue Belish believed the policies should reflect the current situation of the board.

The motion failed.

Walt moved to table the action item and further discussion until the August SBE meeting. Seconded by Ken Rathbun, the motion carried.

OTHER ISSUES

Paige Fenton Hughes will draft a memo on teacher leader accountability and send it to the board for review. Also, in the same memo she will include the board's input on Native American Education.

Pete Gosar listed items for the August Meeting:

- The decision making and input process for ESSA
- Modifications to the strategic action plan
- A protocol for monitoring deliverables on contracts
- SBE Polices

Additionally, Pete Gosar listed items for the July Special Meeting:

- Chapter 31 Rules
- Assessment RFP information

Brent Bacon thanked Brent Young for his leadership while serving as the WDE Liaison.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

NEXT MEETING

The board's next scheduled meeting will take place in Casper, August 18-19, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.