

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 17, 2019
Via Teleconference

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Chairman Wilcox, Sue Belish, Dicky Shanor (proxy for Superintendent Balow), Robin Schamber, Nate Breen, Ryan Fuhrman, Ken Rathbun, Kathryn Sessions, and Forrest Smith.

Members absent: Max Mickelson, Dr. Sandy Caldwell, Dan McGlade, Dr. Dean Ray Reutzel and Scotty Ratliff.

Also present: Kylie Taylor, WDE; Dr. Thomas Sachse; Michelle Panos, WDE; and Julie Magee, WDE.

January 17, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wilcox called the State Board of Education to order at 1:02 p.m.

Kylie Taylor conducted roll call and established that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Sue Belish moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

State Superintendent's Update

Dicky Shanor began the State Superintendent's update by welcoming the WDE's new Communications Director, Michelle Panos. Michelle took over for Kari Eakins who is now the WDE's Chief Policy Officer. Dicky continued with an update on the statewide report card that was released in December. Sections of the report card include school performance, assessments, enrollment, graduation, teachers, and more.

Dicky ended the update with a list of priorities for the legislative session which include, expansion of the Hathaway Scholarship success curriculum to include Career and Technical Education course options. Virtual education amendments, school safety and security, and government efficiency.

Coordinator's Report

Dr. Tom Sachse, SBE Coordinator, began his report with a legislative update and gave an overview on some key bills that are working their way through the legislative committees. Board members gave input on the Civics Education Bill and K-2 Foreign Language Bill that they would like relayed to the legislature. There was discussion around "rapid response" through emails to get information out to the board quickly during the legislative session. Mackenzie Williams cautioned against doing that so it's not perceived as lobbying or holding board business outside of a public meeting. Tom continued his report with the draft

table of contents for an Administrative Procedures document. Tom asked the board for feedback on the draft table of contents.

SBE COMMITTEE UPDATES

Communications Committee

Ryan Fuhrman updated the board on the current work of the communications committee to engage the public and the work the committee has done to prepare the Communication Policies.

Administrative Committee

Sue Belish presented the administrative committee meeting minutes as presented in the packet and started a discussion around SBE/WDE tasks and changes. The board discussed and agreed that it would be appropriate to eliminate catered lunches unless they are having a full day and working through lunch. The board also discussed and agree that it was appropriate to eliminate having snacks at board meetings to lighten the load for Kylie when traveling.

BOARD REPORTS AND UPDATES

Computer Science Standards Update

Laurie Hernandez, WDE, presented the updated proposed 2019 Computer Science Standards review. The WDE Standards Team started the review process by releasing a survey to collect community input prior to convening the Computer Science Standards Review Committee. The Team also conducted five regional community input meetings across Wyoming. Laurie reviewed the work of the Committee and indicated the Proposed 2019 Computer Science Standards consist of 16 standards under five domains. The document includes benchmarks, the skills students must master in order to demonstrate proficiency of the content standards throughout the grade band. The committee chose to arrange the benchmarks by the following grade bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and two levels for 9-12.

Sue Belish asked the WDE Standards Team to include the questions below to help form the impact survey that is going to be released:

1. What discussions took place about the wisdom of setting K-12 standards vs. 6-12 or 4-12 standards? If this was not discussed why not. Board members clearly discussed this topic at our March meeting in Rawlins and the September meeting in Afton. Sue voiced this concern at the community input meeting in Sheridan spring 2018.
2. What do K-5 teachers say about the impact of adding computer science standards and benchmarks to the student learning day and teacher instructional time?
3. What are the estimates for the amount of time it will take to teach and learn the benchmarks at various grade spans?
4. What did the audit conducted by the WDE last year reveal about the implementation costs for computer science?
5. How will the computer science practices, the digital guidelines, and the new standards all be integrated into what teachers must teach and students must learn?

Robin Schamber agreed with Sue's concerns and with the questions she gave the WDE.

State and Federal Accountability Results

Julie Magee presented the 2017-18 accountability results that were presented to the Joint Education Interim Committee. Julie went through the presentation that summarized the results of the Wyoming schools' performance in the 2017-18 school year.

Process to Avoid Lobbying

Mackenzie Williams presented a memo from the Attorney General's office that serves as a yearly reminder of the Executive Branch's policy prohibiting agencies, and their representatives, from lobbying the Wyoming Legislature. The policy allows agencies, and their representatives, to provide the Legislature requested and needed factual information.

ACTION ITEMS

SBE Communication Policies

Tom Sachse presented the Communication Policies sections 21 and 29 and explained the revisions that were made to the policies.

Robin Schamber moved to approve the communication policies, seconded by Ken Rathbun; the motion did not carry because there were not enough voting members present.

Early Learning Resolution

Tom Sachse reviewed the early learning resolution to the board and Dicky Shanor said the WDE cannot support universal Pre-K and will vote no.

Kathryn Sessions moved to approve the early learning resolution, seconded by Ryan Fuhrman; the motion did not carry because there were not enough voting members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carla Hester-Croff: Thanked the board for their time and explained she was on the Computer Science Standards Committee and would be happy to help anyone if needed.

Kevin Mitchell: Thanked the board for a good meeting and shared the same concerns with the Computer Science Standards. Kevin said the work done by the committee was amazing quality work but they are very complex and what everyone has seen so far is only the cliff note version. Kevin would like to know what is specifically new that teachers will have to teach.

NEXT MEETING

The board's next meeting will take place in Cheyenne on February 21-22, 2019

The State Board of Education adjourned at 4:41 p.m.