

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 28, 2015
Natrona CSD #1, Jefferson Room
970 North Glenn Road, Casper, Wyoming

Wyoming State Board of Education members present: Pete Gosar, Ken Rathbun, Scotty Ratliff, Kathryn Sessions, Walt Wilcox, Kathy Coon, Sue Belish, Nate Breen, and Jim Rose

Members present by phone: Jillian Balow and Belenda Willson

Members absent: Hugh Hageman

Also present: Chelsie Oaks, WDE; Brent Young, WDE; Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator; Joel Dvorak, WDE; Kathy Scheurman; WEA, and Mackenzie Williams, SBE Attorney; Jo Ann Numoto, WDE; Brent Bacon, WDE; Lisa Weigel, WDE.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Gosar called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.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 Jillian Balow.

Jillian Balow requested a Superintendent's Update be added to the agenda. Also, Pete Gosar requested the agenda be amended to include the Chapter 31 Rules and the SSoS Council Members under action items on the agenda.

Sue Belish moved to amend the agenda with the requested content added, seconded by Kathryn Sessions; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 8, 2015 and September 2015 Retreat were presented to the Board of approval.

Kathryn Sessions moved to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2015 meeting, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

Ken Rathbun moved to approve the minutes from the September 2015 Retreat, seconded by Walt Wilcox.

Sue Belish suggested that all requests made by the State Board of Education be posted in a memo, with a bulleted list, the day after a meeting.

Kathy Coon wants to do a better job monitoring the request made by the Board.

Paige Fenton Hughes, SBE Coordinator, will add an “Old Business Section” to the agendas and make sure to send a follow up memo on requests.

The motion carried.

Scotty Ratliff requested that another memo be forwarded to the Dean of Education at the University of Wyoming to attend the State Board of Education meetings.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Superintendent Balow apologized for appearing by phone, she was on a panel the previous day in Ohio discussing rural education. She asked that a Superintendent Update be included at every meeting.

Superintendent Balow discussed the WDE’s strategic plan and vision with the Board. The Board asked in-depth questions, it was eager to see the direction the department was going, and commented that sharing the plan with more entities and presenting the plan in phases would be beneficial.

Walt Wilcox requested that the Board and the Department do more of the strategic work together.

STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

Brent Young, WDE liaison, discussed the progress of the Statewide System of Support. Fifteen schools, in twelve districts have been identified as “not meeting expectations” in the accountability model. The Board requested that those schools and districts be notified as soon as possible, because district’s improvement plans are due December 7th and these findings will affect what they submit.

Dr. Joel Dvorak discussed the SSoS Collaborative Council and described how the learning system at the classroom level is the most important. The Council is scheduled to meet November 8-9, 2015 in Casper.

Sue Belish requested a monthly written update be sent to the Board, to include all the milestones of the system and a detailed description of how and when those milestones are met.

JEC & SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, gave the Board a brief update on submitting the October 15th Report to LSO and the Joint Education Committee (JEC) and the Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability meetings that will take place Thursday and Friday after the Board meeting. She also reviewed the Board Update memo provided in the meeting packet on the work she has been doing.

Paige Fenton Hughes, extended an invitation to the Wyoming Schools Boards Association conference November 18-20 in Casper. Nate Breen, Sue Belish, and Ken Rathbun will be in attendance, but if other members would like to attend to please notify Chelsie Oaks.

SBE GOALS

Paige Fenton Hughes reviewed the list of SBE Goals in the packet. Sue Belish suggested the Board consider switching the order of the list and asked that there be an alignment of SBE goals and legislative priorities.

Walt Wilcox felt that the last bullet, starting with “Lead in developing” was not appropriate and also felt that it is important that all parties support and appreciate what collaborative is.

Nate Breen and Sue Belish agreed, Sue Belish noted that the Board should want to encourage collaborative work but supporting and participating.

Pete Gosar requested that Board members forward their comments and suggestions on the goals to Chelsie Oaks.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, reviewed the list of legislative priorities provided in a memo within the meeting packet. Paige felt that the Board should put the list in a different format than previous years. Sue Belish felt that both the goals and legislative priorities of the Board should be reworked to mesh together.

Pete Gosar requested that the Board hold on action until the goals and legislative priorities are worked out a little more; they will be presented at the next State Board of Education meeting.

DEFINITION OF A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Paige Fenton Hughes, reviewed the work that was completed on the definition of a high school graduate with the collaborative council in Saratoga. Paige also reviewed the Complete College Wyoming work provided in her memo to the Board; she felt that the Complete College Wyoming work was more complete than the definition document in the board packet.

Dr. Jim Rose, noted that the Complete College Wyoming definition was created with a focus on post-secondary education. Dr. Rose felt that the Board could use it as a template, but overall felt that the Board needed to create its own definition of a high school graduate and do it more concisely. He lastly noted that public education has a larger audience than post-secondary and that the Board’s definition needs to reflect that.

The Board discussed what it would like to see the definition include. Paige Fenton Hughes will bring a redraft to the next meeting.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

SBE Coordinator, Paige Fenton Hughes, reviewed with the Board the recent Communications Committee call on October 14. The Committee reviewed the contract amendment for Pascal Public Relations.

Jim Rose commented that the committee took a good look at the deliverables and what the Board needed. He said the committee wanted to be deliberate about the services requested and not to over extend on what the Board really needs.

Dr. Fenton Hughes discussed some recent public input given to the Board on the communications contract and request for proposal (RFP). The Chairman, the person who gave the input, and Paige had a conference call to review issues and details.

COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS PROVIDERS

Jo Ann Numoto, WDE, presented on three facilities for court order placed students and gave additional information on each facility individually.

Kathryn Sessions moved that the SBE designate Excelsior Youth Center as an approved facility for court ordered placement of students and subsequent educational payments pursuant to Section 9 and 10 of Chapter 14, SBE Rules and Regulations and completion of the review, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

Kathy Coon moved that the SBE designate Shiloh Home, Inc./Shiloh House as an approved facility for court ordered placement of students and subsequent educational payments pursuant to Section 9 and 10 of Chapter 14, SBE Rules and Regulations and completion of the review, seconded by Ken Rathbun; the motion carried.

Kathryn Sessions moved that the SBE designate Norris Academy as an approved facility for court ordered placement of students and subsequent educational payments pursuant to Section 9 and 10 of Chapter 14, SBE Rules and Regulations and completion of the review, seconded by Sue Belish; the motion carried.

Board members requested more data on the number of students in and out of state placement, how many out of state facilities are available, and more information is provided on what is being done at the state level.

NASBE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nate Breen, Paige Fenton Hughes, Mackenzie Williams, Pete Gosar, and Chelsie Oaks all presented on the NASBE Annual Conference including the highlights and takeaways from the conference.

Chairman Gosar encouraged members to attend the next annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

GOTOMEETING APP

Chelsie Oaks, Board assistant, had all the Board members download the GoToMeeting App onto their iPads in preparation of the November meeting being conducted through GoToMeetings.

AMENDMENT TO PASCAL PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT

Paige Fenton Hughes discussed the Pascal Public Relations amendment provided in the Board packet.

Sue Belish moved to approve the contract amendment for Pascal Public Relations, seconded by Walt Wilcox; the motion carried.

CHAPTER 31 RULES

SBE Coordinator, Dr. Paige Fenton Hughes, gave the Board information on why the Chapter 31 Rules needed to be rescinded. The Legislative Service Office (LSO) had concerns that the rules sent over to them are a reiteration of the statutes and that the district assessment systems are not delineated enough in the submitted rules. LSO warned that if the submitted rules are not rescinded they will be forwarded to the Management Council on the non-consent list.

Sue Belish moved to rescind the promulgation of Chapter 31 rules as adopted on October 8, 2015 and to direct WDE to move forward with revisions of the rules, seconded by Nate Breen; the motion carried.

SSOS COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

Kathryn Sessions was appointed to the Statewide System of Support Collaborative Council.

OTHER ISSUES, CONCERNS, DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Pete Gosar reviewed the requests that were made in the meeting for the meeting follow up memo.

Kathy Scheurman gave public comment on her appreciation of the level of conversation, the depth of understand and the amount of compassion that the State Board of Education has.

Pete Gosar notified the Board that a Doodle Poll would be sent out for the best dates and times for the GoToMeeting in November

The State Board of Education adjourned at 4:00 p.m.