Indiana State Board of Education
Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 2, 2010
Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:03 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketor, David Shane, Mike Pettibone, James Edwards, Steve Gabet, and Daniel Elsener were present. Vicki Snyder, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, and Neil Pickett were not present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Pickett moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

Dr. Bennett said an announcement will be made today about the roll out of the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics for grades K-12 by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association for Best Practice. The current Common Core State Standards can be viewed at www.corestandards.org.

The Department of Education (DOE) will develop Common Core State Standards curriculum maps during the 2010-2011 school year. After these are complete, the DOE will make them available to all Indiana school corporations.

Dr. Bennett discussed a recent visit to the School City of Hammond. Hammond High School was awarded a Title I School Improvement Grant, in the amount of $5.0 million. These funds will be awarded over a three-year period. Dr. Bennett said he commends the Hammond administrators, teaching staff, and Pat O'Rourke and his group of teachers who represent the American Federation of Teachers, for submitting one of the best grant applications received by the DOE.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Dr. Bennett said the Spotlight on Learning recognizes Dr. Tim Long, Superintendent, Jay School Corporation, for his efforts to increase intercultural learning opportunities for Hoosier students.

Dr. Long discussed a trip to China in April 2009 with other superintendents, principals, and eight administrators from Massachusetts, sponsored by the China Exchange Initiative. During this visit Dr. Long learned about the regimen of the Chinese educational system and taught Chinese educators about the creative elements of the educational system in the United States.

Dr. Long said the purpose of the China Exchange Initiative is to build and support educational exchange programs and administrator showing projects between schools in the United States and schools in China at the pre-college level. Jay County recently hosted two Chinese educators from Anshan Provence.

Dr. Long provided the following website for persons interested in programs provided by the China Exchange Initiative: www.thechinaexchangeinitiative.org.

Dr. Wood Barwick, Assistant Superintendent, Jay School Corporation, showed a slide presentation from the April 2009 visit to China.

V. Board Member Comments

Mr. Pettibone noted that the Public Employee Retirement Fund (PERF) and the Teacher Employee Retirement Fund (TERF), have moved from quarterly to biweekly reporting and payments. Also, beginning in July the federal dollars that schools receive will be based on reimbursement rather than allocation. Both of these create a cash flow problems for corporations.

Mr. Pettibone also mentioned that, while the State Board has tried to focus on deregulation, there are too many local conversations about more rules and reporting. This diverts attention from what schools should focus on - better test scores, better achievement, and closing the achievement gap, - instead of too much "reporting." Dr. Bennett sated there will be an opportunity for us to reduce the number of reports for the next school year, due to the real time data reporting that came out of HB 1001.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Agapito Morgan and Patty McCool.

VIII. Discussion

Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform, said there has been a change in the date for the August Board meeting, now scheduled for August 3, 1 p.m., following the Education Roundtable meeting in the morning. At the August meeting, the Board will be asked to adopt the Common Core Standards cut scores for the IMAST test and the End of Course Assessment (ECA) cut scores.

Mrs. Blacketor asked that a clear vision of the Board's legislative involvement be presented.

Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, gave an assessment update. The DOE released to schools on May 27 the student level results from ISTEP. Aggregated results will follow at a later date and the state release information will come out later in June. The ECA window closes on Friday, June 4.

Next year's seniors next year will be the last class to go through the graduation qualifying examination process. The class of 2012 will be the first class that has to meet the requirements of Algebra I and English 10 ECA's.

Mr. Bruce said Phase III of the Growth Model was released on April 26 through the Learning Connection, and it is receiving a lot of attention. Schools that are currently signed up on the "Learning Connection" can see student level information.

Mr. Zaring and Dale Chu, Senior Advisor for School Leadership and Policy, gave an update on accountability issues. Mr. Zaring discussed a draft rule for technical assistance and intervention. For "year four" schools, it implements the statutory requirements and adds the quality review process and establishes it as an intrical

part of technical assistance. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) also is included – something the DOE is offering to the school corporation, but cannot require. The MOA must include outcomes the school should achieve; including specific improvement the Department believes are necessary to address the findings of the report. If, in the fifth year after initial placement in the lowest category of school improvement, under IC 20-31-8 and 511 IAC 6.2-6, a school still remains in the lowest category or designation, the State Board shall hold at least (1) public hearing in the school corporation where the school is located to consider and hear testimony concerning options for school improvement.

Mr. Zaring also discussed the following:

- Options for improvement.
- Outside managers.
- Funding; including debt services; transportation; food service; capital projects; and other services (common services that the school corporation provides.)
- Leave of absence.
- Redistricting, assignment of students.
- Actions adverse of outside manager; real and personal property; failure to fulfill requirement of rule.

Mrs. Blacketor said it would be helpful to have a definition of transformational change, and regarding the MOA, it would be helpful to compare the work plans to existing school improvement plans.

Board members believe the system of interventions must be as flexible as possible. They also discussed concerns that the MOAs not simply be slightly accelerated school improvement plans.

Mr. Zaring asked Board members to send him any other suggestions they might have.

Dale Chu said the proposed work plan needs to be owned by each school receiving technical assistance, but the DOE will provide feedback as to whether or not the plan meets the expectations DOE has put forward.

Mr. Chu said in the past month the DOE has had the opportunity to look at the turnaround plans that were submitted from each of the corporations, and, while reviewing those, was developing the metrics.

Board members discussed the 2011 intermediate turnaround goals and made suggestions regarding changes they wanted made to some of the indicators listed. Board members believe there should be fewer and more focused metrics –

achievement, non-waiver graduation rate, staff evaluation, and teacher attendance. The Board will consider Progress against the goals, implementation of the MOA, testimony at the hearing, and other evidence when it makes decisions about intervention.

Alyson Luther, Response to Instruction Coordinator, gave an update on the guidance document for Response to Instruction (RtI). Ms. Luther said the focus of the document was shifted from an intervention based model to an instructionally-based model, focused on data driven instruction and differentiated instruction.

The RtI document addresses all learners, including students with high ability and English language learners. Indiana is one of a few states specifically addressing high ability students in the RtI document. Indiana is currently in the process of creating a resource took kit that will support implementation and will become part of the DOE RtI website which all teachers and educators will be able to access as they move into full implementation.

Indiana is also one of six states that are receiving intensive technical assistance from the National Center on Response to Intervention. This will give DOE access to all of their resources and their field experts as the process is developed.

Mrs. Luther said DOE has targeted some schools to pilot the new guidance for the 2010-2011 school year. The pilot schools will receive intensive support and foundational training including presentations from field experts from the National RtI Center.

Ms. Luther said the response so far has been great!

Anna Shults, Reading Division, provided an update on the Reading Initiative. Ms. Shults discussed what schools comprise The Consortium on Reading Excellence (CORE) and why DOE picked them to help develop the reading initiative framework. Board members were given copies of a CORE briefing document and information on advisory board members. CORE has many years of experience, has worked with three other states, and recently was named by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Colorado DOE as one of only a handful of educational service providers eligible to assist with school transformation and turnaround efforts on a statewide scale.

Ms. Shults said visits have been made to all opportunity schools, and 15 schools participated in the Opportunity School Summer Institute hosted by the DOE.

Currently in development are online modules aligned with Reading Framework to be completed by December 2010. The Indiana K-6 Reading Framework for statewide use during 2010-2011 will be online in August 2010.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

X. Action

A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval to delay the implementation of the 2009 Indiana Mathematics Standards.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of the Charter School Advancement loans.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Zaring reminded Board members that the August Board meeting will be held on August 3, 1 p.m.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for adjournment. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.