



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 7, 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 9:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketer, David Shane, Vicki Snyder, Neil Pickett, Mike Pettibone, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, James Edwards, and Daniel Elsener were present. Steve Gabet was not present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

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

III. Statement of the Chair

Dr. Bennett discussed Race to the Top (RttT) and said the Department of Education (DOE) will utilize the input from the reviewers, look over the winning proposals, make adjustments, and determine how we will proceed with Phase II. The Department was very disappointed and confused about the decision from the US Department of Education, but this will not stop education reform in Indiana.

Dr. Bennett said last month's visits were completed at all 10 school corporations that comprise the 23 schools involved in technical assistance. Three issues were evident:

- Low expectations.
- Lack of accountability for high instructional quality.
- School leaders need the autonomy and the authority to have high expectations and not get mired in bureaucracy.

Dr. Bennett said Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform and State Board of Education Administrator, is working with those school corporations on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) process. Some corporations are really working hard to find way a way to transform their schools, and others are not.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Dr. Bennett said the Spotlight on Learning recognizes the John H. Castle Elementary School for raising student achievement through data driven instruction. He introduced Mr. Brad Snyder, Superintendent, Warrick County School Corporation, who, along with Ms. Debbie Scales, Principal, and Joshua Susott, Assistant Principal, John H. Castle Elementary School, joined the Board electronically for this meeting.

In 2009 John H. Castle Elementary School was named a Four Star School for performing in the top 25 percent of all the schools in the state in student attendance, mathematics proficiency, English/language arts proficiency, and the percent of students passing both subjects on ISTEP+. The school's accelerated reader program serves to increase the amount of material students read while tracking growth and setting benchmarks for success. John H. Castle Elementary School also uses the Learning Connection's remediation program to monitor progress and provide extra support to students who may be falling behind.

Indiana's growth model identifies John H. Castle Elementary School as high growth/high achievement in both English/language arts and mathematics.

V. Board Member Comments

Mr. Elsener said he was notified by phone that a large national foundation is going to give Marian University a planning grant to develop a new training model for school and district level administrators.

Mr. Elsener announced that Dr. Bennett will be the commencement speaker and receive an honorary doctorate from Marian University in May.

Mr. Edwards discussed education reform issues in Tennessee.

Mr. Pettibone said the Citizens' Checklist was discussed at a public meeting in Adams Central School Corporation. Unfortunately, some programs will be cut and there will also be staff reductions.

Mr. Pettibone discussed the Common Core Standards meeting he attended with Dr. Griffith-Adell, and Mrs. Blacketor on March 29 and said interesting concepts were discussed. Dr. Griffith-Adell said it was a very interesting and great meeting and the idea of coming up with a common core of standards is very exciting.

Mrs. Blacketor asked for clarity from the Department regarding the timeline for the Common Core Standards. Mr. Zaring discussed the online public comment period now going on throughout the states. The Department anticipates bringing the Common Core Standards to the Board late July or August. They first must be reviewed by the Education Roundtable before they come before the Board for approval.

Board members also discussed the idea of common assessments and how that aligns with the current assessment contract.

Mr. Pickett thanked the Department for the well written and well thought out Race to the Top application. Mr. Pickett said he also supports DOE plans to continue with education reform regardless of RttT funding.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

A. Becky Bowman, General Counsel, presented Cause Number 0911013, K.P., Petitioner and Crown Point Community School, Respondent, Transfer Pursuant to I.C.20-26-11-5 and 511 IAC 1-6, for oral argument and adoption of a final order.

Mr. John Williams, Director of Personnel, Crown Point Community School Corporation, spoke on behalf of Crown Point Community School Corporation. K.P., Petitioner, was notified but was not represented.

Ms. Snyder made a motion to support Crown Point by modifying that part of the hearing officer's decision ordering Crown Point School Corporation to find a different school for K.P. Mr. Pettibone seconded the motion. The motion passed with nine ayes and one abstention (Mrs. Blacketor).

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Ellen Syles, Paul Kennedy, Nick Bennett, Dr. Victor Smith, and Dr. Robert Pychinka.

VIII. Discussion

Mr. Zaring discussed education related laws enacted this year by the General Assembly. The Board's responsibility rests with the reading program in House Enrolled Act 1367.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on assessment. The ISTEP+ multiple choice window is April 26 – May 5. The Department will have the research information for AYP and P.L.221 for elementary and middle schools on May 27. In July the standard setting process will be done for the End of Course Assessments as well as IMAST.

Mr. Zaring said he has talked to the US Department of Education, and they have approved the Department's graduation rate goal and targets, based on the 90 percent goal.

Board members discussed the schedule for AYP and P.L.221 accountability determinations.

Mr. Zaring said all technical assistance school visits have been conducted and follow up letters and requests for information have been sent. School corporations are requested to submit work plans no later than April 23 (early visits) or April 30 (later visits.) One follow up meeting has been conducted and one is scheduled.

The Department will get the high school research data for End of Course Assessments around August.

Dr. Jennifer Hicks, Science Specialist, discussed the comprehensive science initiative. Working with the National Science Resources Center, the Indiana Strategic Planning Committee for Science Education developed a draft of a plan for science education reform. Dr. Hicks discussed the five areas required for systemic education reform:

- Curriculum.
- Professional development.
- Materials support.
- Administrative and community support.

- Assessment.

Dr. Hicks said the plan will be aligned with the revision of the Department's science standards.

Schools are being encouraged and offered an opportunity to consider the materials and participate in a pilot. Schools that choose to be part of the pilot will not have to pay for any materials that will be used for professional development.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, A]

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda item. Mrs. Griffith-Adell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of adult education summer/fall term funding allocations.

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

- B. Dr. Hicks presented a request for approval of academic standards for science.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for consideration of common school fund loan for tax shortfall.

Mr. Shane made a motion to uphold the decision of the DOE to deny the application. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Common School Fund loans for construction and technology.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Pete Miller, GEPF Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, presented a request for determination of expenditure categories under IC 20-42.5-3.

Mrs. Blacketer moved to table this matter so that a meeting between financial people from DOE, State Board of Accounts, Office of Management and Budget, and other education associations can be held to discuss what changes need to be made. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Matt Tusing, Legal Division, presented a request for approval of adoption of LSA Document Number 09-795, elimination of Board of Special Education Appeals.

Mr. Shane made a motion to adopt the rule as so amended. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Zaring said the Department will conduct a public hearing on April 30 at 9 a.m. to receive testimony on the proposed rule to change our state accountability category names from word names to letter A, B, C, D, F. Board members will be able to hear testimony if they wish. Board members will also be given a final summary.

Mr. Edwards moved for adjournment. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.