

Minutes State Board of Education January 9, 2025

John Robbins
President
Iowa Falls

Brooke Axiotis
Vice President
Des Moines

Cindy Dietz
Cedar Rapids

Cassandra Halls
Carlisle

Brian J. Kane
Dubuque

Mary Meisterling
Cedar Rapids

Michael McClelland
Student Member (non-voting)
Truro

Beth Townsend
Iowa Workforce Development
(non-voting)

McKenzie Snow
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on January 9, 2025, at the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was conducted in person, with remote access information provided in the notice of the meeting.

State Board members present: John Robbins, Brooke Axiotis, Brian Kane, Cassandra Halls, and Beth Townsend. Mary Meisterling, Cindy Dietz, and Michael McClelland attended virtually.

Iowa Department of Education staff members present: McKenzie Snow, Deborah Elder, Tina Wahlert, Eric Heitz, Eric St Clair, Heather Doe, Thomas Mayes, Tom Bredfield, Sandra Hurtado-Peters, Cassandra Cline, Zach Blacksmith, and Jeremy Anzevino.

State Board Business Meeting

John Robbins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced public comment for 30 minutes.

Courtney Collier made a public comment.

Shelly Flockhart made a public comment.

The following reports were provided:

Director's Report, by Director Snow.

Nonpublic Schools Advisory Committee Update, by Brian Kane.

Community College Advisory Committee Update, by Cassandra Halls.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the consent agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

State Board Work Session: National Association of Charter School Authorizers

The matter was discussed.

John Robbins announced a 10-minute break at the presentation's mid-point.

Charter School Contract Template

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Charter School Contract Template as presented with annual review on or before the December 2025 State Board of Education meeting.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced a break for lunch.

Charter School Application – Davenport Prep

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Application – Distinctive Academy

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Application – Great Oaks High School and Career Center Davenport

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Application – Great Oaks High School and Career Center Des Moines

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced a 10-minute break.

Charter School Application – Horizon Science Academy Davenport

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to approve the application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Application – Red Barn Schoolhouse

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve the application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Empowering Excellence Charter School Amendment Request

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the requested amendment regarding changing enrollment requirements.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the requested amendment regarding changing facility location.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the requested amendment which allows the school to waive participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, provided that Empowering Excellence continues to provide lunch via a third party vendor.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Independent Accrediting Agency Application Approvals

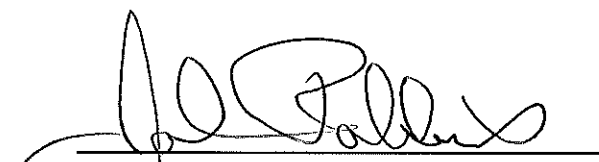
Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the applications for: Association of Christian Schools International, American Montessori Society, Cognia, Christian Schools International, Independent Schools Association of the Central States, and National Lutheran Schools Association.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Legislative Update

The matter was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.



John Robbins
President



McKenzie Snow
Director