

Nonpublic School Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Feb. 14, 2023

Members Present: Patty Lansink, Josh Bowar, Brian L’Heureux, Donna Bishop

Others in Attendance: Kim Buryanek, Holly Barnes, Eric St Clair, Rachel Bosovich

Agenda Item	Person	Notes
1. Welcome and Review Agenda	Patty Lansink Kim Buryanek	Reviewed the agenda. No additions were made at this time.
2. Legislative Update	Eric St Clair	<p>The Iowa Department of Education (“Department”) is tracking upward of 150 education-related bills. The Department has developed a website for the Governor’s new Students First Act, including a regularly-updated FAQ. The RFP for a third-party vendor to administer the Educational Savings Account program closed today. Once a vendor is selected, the administrative rules process can begin.</p> <p>Several bills have been introduced around teacher licensure. HF 255 relates to teacher intern licensing and alternate licensure pathways for out-of-state educators. HF 100 would reduce the minimum age to hold a teaching license from 21 to 18 years old, since some high school students are taking teacher prep and high school courses concurrently. HF 97 would allow school districts to pay for student teachers through an altered levy process.</p> <p>Lawmakers have also introduced a number of bills related to instruction. The Governor’s omnibus bill, SSB 1145, combines several of these proposals, or similar, into one legislative package. It covers issues ranging from instruction about sexual orientation, gender identity and reproductive education, to library cataloguing. There have also been hearings on HSB 119 and SSB 1076, which would change offer and teach requirements and school improvement plans moving forward.</p> <p>The Governor’s government realignment bill has been introduced. It would move adult education and vocational rehabilitation to Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). Board of Educational Examiners, Iowa College Student Aid Commission, STEM, and the Iowa schools for the deaf/Braille and Sight Saving School would be under the Department. It would reduce the Governor’s direct reports from 37 directors to 16. The Senate began work on the bill this week, dividing up its sections across three subcommittees.</p>

<p>3. Safety and Security Grants</p>	<p>Eric St Clair</p>	<p>Last summer, the Governor announced a \$100 million multi-agency school safety initiative between the Department and the Iowa Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety. It included school threat assessments and up to \$50,000 in grants for participating schools, including accredited nonpublic schools. The Department of Public Safety established the Governor’s School Safety Bureau, and hired a bureau chief and staff. The bureau is providing trainings for schools, including Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) and Stop the Bleed. The training is free and open to both public and accredited nonpublic schools.</p> <p>The agencies are also working on an anonymous reporting application, with an early March rollout anticipated. Any member of the public who has the Safe and Sound Iowa app will be able to submit anonymous reports in emergency situations, which will be sent to dispatchers, then first responders, then to a designated point of contact at the relevant school, if appropriate. Rachel Bosovich discussed how the selected vendor, GeoCom, will create detailed, layered maps which will allow first responders to find key locations in an emergency and better coordinate efforts. GeoCom staff will go to school sites and take images, to be available at a central hub. When state funding stops, schools will be able to keep their existing, static map free of charge, and will have the option to subscribe to the hub for live, updated access if desired.</p> <p>Committee members asked about costs. Rachel said the Department is currently covering all costs for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools, which will continue for one to two years as GeoCom works on the hub.</p>
<p>4. Rulemaking Pause</p>	<p>Rachel Bosovich</p>	<p>Rachel Bosovich discussed the Governor’s Executive Order 10, which pauses all rulemaking. It requires all agencies to review their rules in Iowa Administrative Code (IAC), applying a rigorous cost-benefit analysis. General Counsel Thomas Mayes is the Department’s rules coordinator. The Department has 120 IAC chapters to review. Rules that are overburdensome or reiterating code should be removed. There are exceptions for federal mandates, health and safety, and for the passage of new laws. The order also raises standards for rulemaking, requiring two public hearings, rather than one. The Department must have all rules reviewed and established by December 31, 2023. This mandate will pause some work, including the Special Education Task Force report’s recommendation for more rulemaking around accommodations for special education students in nonpublic schools. Rachel said the Department must also release a public report explaining which rules were retained, the review process, and why retained rules meet the new standards.</p>
<p>5. Teacher Apprenticeship Program</p>	<p>Patty Lansink</p>	<p>Right now, only public schools can take advantage of teacher apprenticeship programs. Patty asked if there are opportunities for nonpublic schools to participate as well. Dr. Buryanek said she reached out to the Department’s educational preparation program staff, and they said IWD is the agency that will be moving this work forward. She encouraged committee members to contact IWD with requests for information.</p>

<p>6. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Title IV-A (Bipartisan Safer Communities Act 2022) b. Conditions for Learning Survey c. Membership 	<p>Kim Buryanek</p>	<p>Dr. Buryanek updated group on Title IV-A Stronger Connections Grant. Iowa received extra funding, and asked for public input, releasing a grant for applications to school districts this month. Part of the expectation is that school districts receive public input, and consult with nonpublic schools. The deadline to apply is April 14, and grants will likely be awarded on May 12. Funds must be used by September 30, 2026. The committee asked if public and nonpublic services under the grant will match, and Dr. Buryanek said they can be different. Ultimately, the school district will decide which services will be available through the grants.</p> <p>Dr. Buryanek also discussed the Conditions for Learning survey. The Department’s contractor, Panorama, said it could not keep data on its servers, and the Department would have to hold all data. Ultimately, one nonpublic school wanted to participate in the program.</p> <p>Dr. Buryanek also said there has not been a decision made by the Governor on appointing a fifth committee member. Dr. Buryanek said she has discussed the matter with the Department’s liaison to the Governor’s Office.</p>
<p>7. Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda for May 		<p>The committee said they would like to hear more details on the ESA program, since applications open in June. The committee asked how ESA affects the Department, and Dr. Buryanek said it was uncertain at this point. The committee tentatively agreed to maintain the current schedule for future meetings, penciling in: Oct 10, 2023, Dec 12, 2023, Feb 13, 2024, May 14, 2024. These dates will be finalized at the May meeting.</p>

2022-2023 Nonpublic Advisory Meetings

May 9, 2023